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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

Quarterly Record.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee desire to express their grateful thanks to the following friends:—Anonymous, for a small parcel of worn clothing; Dowager Lady Plunkett, for twelve pairs of knitted socks and twelve holland pinafores; Mrs. Johnston, parcel of toys and books; Miss Bassett, for a parcel of books for Holiday House; Mrs. Dalwig, for a box of old clothes; and to Mrs. Ditmas, for a parcel of odds and ends.

TO SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS.

THE YOUNG CAPITALIST:

AN ADDRESS PRIZE TO SCHOLARS.

BY W. HAIG MILLER, ESQ.,

AUTHOR OF "THE MIRAGE OF LIFE."

This address (which deserves to be printed in letters of gold), in the Book form of 24 pages, price 2s. 6d. per 100, can be had at the Office of the Ragged School Union.

ALSO,

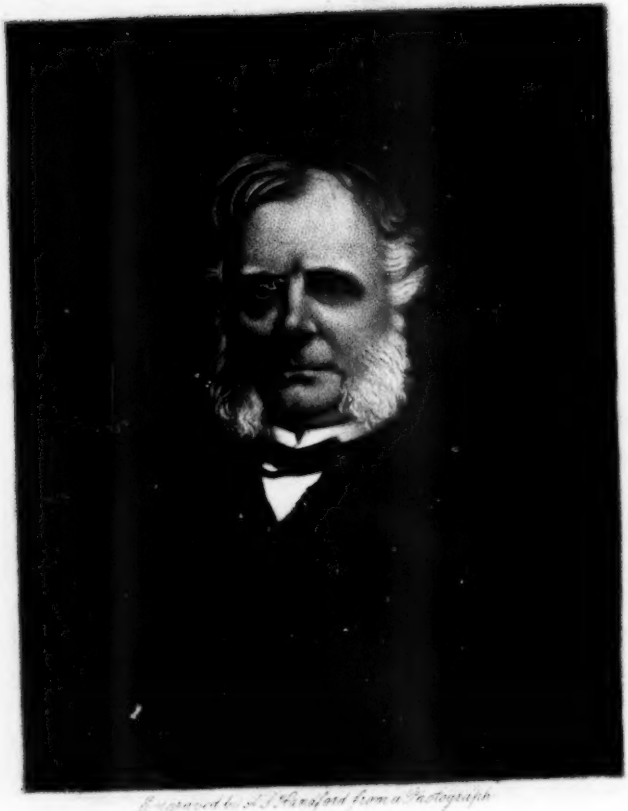
MUST THE LITTLE ONES PERISH?

A WORD FOR RAGGED SCHOOLS.

By the Rev. J. OSWALD DYKES, D.D.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Can be had at the Office of the Ragged School Union.



Engraved by A. J. Bradford from a Photograph

Thos Medley

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

JULY, 1885.

THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

THE great meeting of the Society was marked by great expectations and signal disappointments. For the first time Lord Shaftesbury was absent from the chair, which he had filled on the forty previous years. Up to the time of the meeting, the day being bright and genial, he was expected. At the last moment a letter, which is printed elsewhere, was brought by a messenger from the noble Earl, expressive of his inability to attend.

On the morning of the day intelligence arrived that two of the foremost speakers, the Revs. Canon Fleming and Archibald Brown, were unhappily prevented by illness from being at the meeting. Their places, at a moment's notice, were kindly supplied by the Revs. Burman Cassin and H. T. Berguer. Notwithstanding these drawbacks the meeting was a great success.

Sir Robert Carden, who is never more at home than when distributing prizes to young people, acquitted himself as usual very happily. The prize scholars were greater in number than on any previous occasion, the meeting was crowded, and the singing good.

The Report, the speeches, and the tone of the meeting indicated the hold which the work on behalf of poor children has upon the attention of the public.

The income of the Society for the past year was such as to inspire the Committee with the belief that the great life work of the noble Earl is still one which the public are willing to support and extend.

The abstract of the Report, read by the Secretary, referred gratefully to the success which under God had attended the work of the year. It stated that the beneficent operations of the Society were cast in no iron mould, but adapted themselves to special needs. As Dr. Dykes, in his eloquent sermon on Ragged Schools, most clearly affirms:—

"Mere school teaching, be it on Sunday or on week-day, falls a long way short of

the benevolent activities associated with your work. In fact, the old name of a Ragged *School* has become in most cases a misnomer, for generous hearts could not go down among the perishing offspring of the slums without discovering that to save them, in any true sense, called for not one species of help, but many; not the lessons of a teacher merely, but the all-embracing manifold thoughtful kindness of a parent."

As an evidence of the continued vitality of the Ragged School Union Tree reference was first made to

A New Departure

in the form of a "Holiday House" to give strength and vigour by a fortnight's country air and change to many weakly children from the schools. Already a good deal had been done by the Union and by some of the larger schools in the same direction. The kindness of Mr. George Courtauld, M.P., and Miss Courtauld, in having a number of the poorest children entertained in cottages for a holiday, was continued last year.

So convinced had been the Committee of the benefits of these country holidays that they determined not to lose time in seeking a permanent cottage, but at once to utilise the small cottages in the villages and hamlets readily accessible from London. The kind assistance of the "Country Holiday Fund" had been cordially granted, and through it 101 children had a fortnight's holiday at Chobham, 49 visited Aspley Guise, 12 went to Thatcham, and six to Barnet; in addition to which 99 visited Halstead, and 39 were sent to Witham, making a total of 306 poor children benefited last summer.

The Committee had now secured a "Country Cottage," lately used for the same good purpose, on Thursley Common, for fortnightly relays of children.

Christopher Crayon, in the *Christian World* for April 16th, 1885, says:—

"Emboldened by success, and made wise by experience, the Ragged School Union have now resolved on a permanent convalescent home. It is a commodious white house, well fitted for the purpose, on the top of a hill, at the far end of Thursley Common. It will accommodate from twenty to thirty children, and it is felt that the Committee could always find a sufficient number of underfed and ailing children to fill the house, by a system of relays throughout the year. It is proposed to have boys or girls, just as circumstances require, and certainly a poor girl needs something of that kind quite as much as a boy, as often she has, after work, to help a sick mother, or nurse an ailing child—duties which rarely devolve on the boys. As spring comes on, the poor children of London may look to health and happiness as they ramble wild and uncontrolled on the common, where there is no 'peeler' to bid them move on, no cart, cab, or tramcar to run over them, no city smoke, nor dirt, nor foul language—nothing between them and the heavens above. Times are

bad, I admit; many, many are the calls for help that come to us on every side; none can, perhaps, respond to all, however liberally disposed; but this home in the country for the children of the Ragged Schools surely ought to have the first place in our hearts."

Scholars' Prizes.

The number of candidates had never been so high as on the present occasion. 864 applications were received at the office, of which 814 were found to be eligible for the prizes, which consist of an illuminated card and money, or card and book.

Shaftesbury Fund.

Under the presidency of the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor a meeting was held on June 18th, 1884, in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, when this fund was inaugurated, having for its object the erection of new buildings, structural alterations, additions, accommodation, and the planting of new agencies in needy districts. An unexpected legacy of £900 was apportioned to this fund by the Committee, and this amount, with special gifts, raised the total to £1,372. *The Fund exists as originated by the express sanction and hearty commendation of our beloved President, and it is felt that his beneficent labours for the good of others are so established in the hearts of the people as, sooner or later, to elicit a fund worthy of the name of "Shaftesbury."*

The Committee record with unfeigned regret the loss sustained by the death of Earl Cairns, who was one of the vice-presidents of this Society, and also by that of Lord Mayor Nottage.

Buildings.

The total number of buildings or mission centres with various titles affiliated with the Union is 187, being an increase of seven over the total of last year. The Committee are glad to record the opening of the new building at Fox Court, Holborn, and collections are being made for similarly needed improvements at Deptford; Marigold Place, Bermondsey; Dove Row, Hackney; and at Nelson Street, Camberwell.

The awakened activity in the provinces is a cause for thankfulness. At Leicester a large handsome building had been erected for the Leicester Ragged School Mission.

Religious.

The Sunday School forms the basis of all Ragged School efforts amongst the young. The returns made show that there were 66 morning schools, 119 afternoon schools, and 84 evening schools, the combined attendance being about 41,000. The senior scholars assemble in 112 Bible Classes, besides which there are many

Christian Bands which meet weekly. Tokens of blessing are not wanting from existing efforts, as 48 schools report 369 scholars having become communicants during the year. Mention should be made also of the frequent and many Prayer Meetings, which are sources of Divine strength and guidance. Children's Services are regularly convened in 119 schools, and 15,442 attend; and there is a great deal also done in open-air preaching, in domiciliary visitation, and in tract distribution. Mothers' Meetings are held in 86 schools, with a registered attendance of 4,781, and Ragged Churches are held in 32 schools, with a recorded attendance of 5,059.

Day Schools.

There are 21 Boys' Schools and 18 Girls' Schools, with a total attendance of 5,062 children.

Week-night Schools for secular instruction are held for boys and men in 83 schools, for girls in 61 schools, and 6 are returned as mixed schools, giving a total average attendance of 4,976, with 9,266 names on the books.

Mr. R. J. Curtis has continued his visitation of the schools without intermission, and it is believed his ripe experience and complete knowledge of each school have been of great help to the cause generally.

The Institutes are steadily increasing, and making their way as helpful agencies in retaining an influence over the girls and lads, and leading them on to adult life. The total number of members is returned at 1,127.

Foremost in the rank of Industrial Agencies must be placed the Shoeblack Brigade. Rarely has a happy idea borne better fruit. The total earnings last year were £11,326 0s. 6d.

The Industrial Classes have been maintained in 69 schools, with an attendance of 3,013 senior scholars. These classes embrace sawing, drawing, carpentering, matmaking, printing, fretwork, woolwork, knitting, mending, woodchopping, &c., and last, but not least, cookery.

Benevolent Operations.

Sunday Morning Free Breakfasts for the destitute and homeless have been maintained at Field Lane, Gray's Yard, Thrawl Street, Nelson Street, and elsewhere.

Maternity Societies, Infant Nurseries, dinners and breakfasts to hungry and weakly children, have all been in full play with manifest advantage, while Soup Kitchens have been helpful for the entire household.

Bands of Hope, Temperance Societies, Gospel Temperance and Blue Ribbon Meetings, indicate the activities in promoting sobriety,

whilst Clothing and Boot, Blanket, and Slate Clubs do much to foster habits of thrift. The Penny and Farthing Banks are also useful in the same direction. Returns from 73 schools show that these banks received last year from 15,235 depositors a total sum of £7,868 18s. 4½d., and showing a balance in hand of £2,184 12s. 10½d.

Recreation.

On July 4th last, under the auspices of the Union, some 3,000 scholars and teachers spent a delightful day in Bushey Park.

The Libraries.

The returns given by 96 schools show the number of books to be 28,919. The kindness of the Committee of the Religious Tract Society in their prompt readiness to assist on all occasions, is again gratefully recognised.

During the past winter 264 schools had used the Magic Lanterns and Slides for the gratification of upwards of 79,000 children.

Services of Song, Flower Shows, Concerts, Recitations, Singing and Music, have all been brought into requisition for the amusement and elevation of both young and old.

The Committee note with satisfaction the inauguration in June last of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children mainly through the exertions of Miss Hesba Stretton.

Teachers.

The total number of voluntary labourers is 3,291, with an average attendance of 2,705, to which must be added 210 paid teachers and monitors.

Finances.

The total amount of contributions received from the public for all purposes was £6,153 13s. 2d.

The Committee regret to report a deficiency in the general fund account.

STEPHEN-THE-YEOMAN RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION.

The committee of this mission, which, as our readers know, has been doing a very valuable work in one of the poorest districts in Bermondsey for the last five-and-twenty years, have just issued an appeal for funds to enable them to rebuild their school. The present building is altogether of too limited accommodation for the purposes to which it is put. It consists of a single room, in which

are carried on—a Ragged School for day scholars (about 180 on the books; average attendance, 130); a Night School for adults; a Sunday School for boys, girls, and infants (open afternoon and evening); a Penny Bank (which has been in operation about twenty years, and received in that time nearly £5,000); a Mothers' Meeting; a Band of Hope; free breakfasts and dinners, and the numerous etcetera of a mission. The absence of class-rooms greatly hampers the work of both the Day School and Sunday School. With more room available the number in attendance on Sunday evenings could be largely increased, and in various other ways the operations could be extended.

We earnestly hope that the committee will succeed in their present effort. Those of our readers who can subscribe to the building fund may do so with the assured conviction that they are assisting a most deserving institution and one which has been greatly blessed. The Earl of Shaftesbury has been deeply interested in the school since its foundation. As testimony of his continued attachment he has, under date of May 19th, sent the following letter to Donald Matheson, Esq., president of the mission. It will, we are sure, be read with interest.

"24, Grosvenor Square, May 19th, 1885.

"Dear Mr. Matheson,—You are, I hear, about to make an appeal for aid to enlarge the operations of the 'Stephen-the-Yeoman Ragged School' in Bermondsey.

"God grant that you may be successful. There is no institution in London more fruitful in good to the poorest children than these schools. I confess that I feel a deep, an almost personal interest in their welfare. That dear, blessed woman, now gone to her rest, Miss Charlesworth, authoress of 'Ministering Children,' sent me, some years ago, £100, with a request that I should spend it on her behalf in the way that I thought most likely to advance the Lord's service. It struck me that I could do no better than find a Ragged School in some destitute and degraded locality in London. I soon found, with the aid of my friend Joseph Gent, one to our very hearts' content. The school was founded; the benefits it has conferred are incalculable; and that excellent lady often said to me that it was her great earthly enjoyment.

"Sincerely do I pray that you may obtain all that you desire. No one who gives a farthing to such a work will ever regret it. You and your colleagues can conscientiously bear witness that I speak within compass when I say that contributors to such a movement as this are advancing the best, as many assert (for the present at least) the only

remedy for the manifold evils and sorrows that beset our poorest population.

"Truly yours,

"D. Matheson, Esq." (Signed) "SHAFTESBURY."

The estimated cost of the new building with the necessary fittings is £1,300. Towards this amount about £900 have already been promised. Four hundred pounds have been subscribed by the Rev. Samuel Charlesworth, M.A., late Rector of Limehouse, who has, since his sister's death, continued to take the warmest interest in the school and its work. Doubtless many friends and admirers of the authoress of "Ministering Children" will be glad to help a mission to which she was, till the day of her death, so greatly attached, and which continues to receive in such large measure the support of her brother and representative.

We need only further add that contributions should be sent to the treasurer, the Hon. H. A. Lawrence, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C., or they may be paid into Messrs. Prescotts, Cave, and Co., 62, Threadneedle Street, to the credit of "Stephen-the-Yeoman" Ragged School, and that he who gives quickly gives twice.

CHISWICK.

THE workers were much cheered at the commencement of the present quarter by receiving from the Committee of the Union a conditional promise of £25 towards the erection of a suitable building. This served as a stimulus to making an effort to fulfil the condition this year, and a sale of work was at once arranged, which resulted in £25 being raised towards the amount required, namely, £200. A friend has since promised £25, so that with what has been already received, we trust by the time this is in the hands of the reader at least *one-half* will have been promised and given. We trust that what has been done in the first six months of the present year will be repeated during the coming half-year, so that by the close of 1885 the building will not only have been erected but paid for, and that thereby the spiritual work will be no longer hindered by want of suitable premises in which to gather the little ones for instruction. The treasurer, Mr. J. R. Wooster, 4, Broadway, High Road, Chiswick, will thankfully receive and acknowledge any help.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union has voted £50.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

HELD AT EXETER HALL, MONDAY, MAY 11*th*, 1885.

FOR the first time in the history of the Ragged School Union our noble President was absent, and keen was the disappointment. The following touching letter shows that, while weak in body, he is still with his beloved work heart and soul:—

"24, Grosvenor Square, W., May 11, 1885.

"Dear Curtis,—Everybody, at least everybody who knows me, will believe that no ordinary difficulty could keep me from presiding at the anniversary of the Ragged School Union.

"I determined to make an effort and be present for *an hour*, if possible, but I cannot do it. I was very particularly unwell all Saturday and Sunday, and I am in a very uncomfortable state to-day, so much so that it would almost be wrong in me were I to expose myself to hazard, being, among other things, very susceptible of cold.

"I have waited until four o'clock in hope of some improvement, but it has not come, and I must remain at home.

"Pray make my apology for me to the meeting, and express my very deep and heartfelt regret that I cannot attend the anniversary of a society that I so dearly love. But it is God's will, and that ends the matter.

"Give my love to all the children, whom I longed to see, and tell them how heartily I pray for their temporal and eternal welfare.

"Neither forget the teachers and members of Committee, for them I have very true respect and affection. "Yours, &c.,

"SHAFTESBURY.

"I hope that my old friend and coadjutor, Sir R. Carden, will be there; he will take my place admirably."

In accordance with the request with which the letter concludes, Sir Robert Carden, M.P., occupied the chair.

A telegram was now sent from the meeting to Lord Shaftesbury expressive of regret at his enforced absence, of sympathy with him in his painful retirement, and of unabated affection.

The message greatly cheered this prince of philanthropists.

After the singing of "To God be the Glory," that veteran of Ragged Schools, Mr. George Holland, opened with prayer. "Rock of Ages" was then sung, after which came the prize interlude. This year no less than 814 boys and girls from the following schools have won prizes for steadiness in their situations and general good conduct:—Amicable Row, 8; Brewer's Court, 7; Broad Street, 1; Brunswick Street, 4; Butler's Place, 5; Camden Town, 9; Canal Road, 4; Castle Lane, 5; Chequer Alley, 12; Copperfield Road, 5; Dartford, 5; Deptford, 5; Dove Row, 15; East Greenwich, 9; Emmott Street, 5; Ernest Street, 5; Exeter Buildings, 2; Field Lane, 35; Fox Court, 14; Gee Street, 1; George Yard, 78; Gibraltar Walk, 5;

Gravesend, 10; Gray's Yard, 11; Grotto Passage, 3; Hackney (Lyme Grove), 4; Harrow Street, 7; Hatfield Street, 8; Henry Street, 14; Horseferry Road, 11; Johnson's Court, 7; John Street, Shacklewell, 2; Jurston Street, 8; Kentish Town, 10; Kimpton Road, 2; King Edward (The), 81; Lamb and Flag (The), 67; Lambeth, 29; Lansdowne Place, 9; Little Coram Street, 2; Little Saffron Hill, 5; London Street, Dockhead, 1; Lower Park Road, 2; Marigold Place, 22; Mildmay Avenue, 1; Milton's Yard, 13; Morton Road, 19; Nelson Street, 14; New Tothill Street, 10; Ogle Mews, 19; One Tun, 12; Parker Street, 7; Poplar, 1; Richmond Street, 8; Robert Street, 10; Rosemary Hall, 27; Rufford's Row, 9; Salmon's Lane, 5; St. James's Place, 4; Sermon Lane, 11; Three Colt Street, 2; Tottenham Road, 7; Tower Street, 16; Victory Place, 29; Vincent Street, 7; Wagner Street, 2; Wentworth Street, 2; West Greenwich, 18; Wilkes Street, 3; Windsor, 4: total, 814.

After a number of pleasant songs from the children, the chairman called upon the secretary, Mr. John Kirk, who read an abstract of the Report. See p. 97—101.

The Right Rev. the LORD BISHOP of BATH and WELLS said: I wish first to make an apology for speaking now. I thought I might be indulged, as I have to leave shortly, with two or three minutes to express warm and hearty sympathy with the work in which you are engaged My first feeling in coming to the meeting to-night was one of disappointment. I had come, like many here present, to give my small tribute of loving respect to your noble President, whom we had hoped to meet here. This first feeling of disappointment has, however, been passing away, or, rather, yielding to a very different feeling, that of indescribable interest and pleasure in the wonderful scene I see before me and behind me. Looking on these dear children, remembering the circumstances of their lives, knowing that but for the Ragged School teachers they would still in all probability have been untrained, one cannot but feel the deepest gratitude that your love and sympathy should have brought them under Gospel teaching, and that they should be not only trained for the service of God, but also for the different spheres of life they will occupy. And it is scarcely a matter of less interest to me to see this large number of human beings assembled to see and hear these children, and to show their interest in the welfare of these young people. It is an unspeakable blessing to know that so many are ready to give a helping, uplifting hand to those who from the circumstances of their birth have no power of helping themselves. And many such, we know, have been raised not only to occupy honourable positions in this life, but, above all, brought to the highest of all positions a human being can take—made living members of the Lord Jesus Christ.

One word I would say which has struck me as very applicable to this occasion. You remember that text in the book of the prophet Jonah where God is giving a reason for sparing Nineveh, giving the reason in answer to the somewhat querulous complaint of Jonah. God spared

that city from destruction, He heard the cry of the people, and accepted their repentance, because there were in it more than sixscore persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand. For the sake of the children God spared the whole wicked city.

If there be any incentive or encouragement to us, surely it ought to be found in the special consideration, the special compassion, the special mercy God has upon the young and helpless members of a large community living in a city like this. Passing as I have done this very day through your great city from west to east, where I had an appointment at Poplar, I have been greatly impressed with its size and the largeness and density of its population. I never saw such multitudes of human beings before. Surely in such a city, and knowing as we do there are tens of thousands who can be reached only by such efforts as yours, there is need for us to be earnest, and instant, and faithful and untiring in following the steps of the Lord Jesus, in having compassion upon the multitude, and in seeking to lead the young to the Good and Great Shepherd of their souls. It is not enough to receive the benefits of salvation at His hand, it is ours to seek to render back to Him, and we cannot do it better than by living for Him. Of all the forms of missionary work none is more effective, and produces more fruit, than a good Christian life, whereby others take knowledge we have been with Christ, and are led to Him. May God bless your Ragged School teaching so that from these schools thousands shall be raised, the goodness, purity, honesty, truth, uprightness and chastity of whose lives shall witness for Him.

The Rev. BURMAN CASSIN, M.A., said: The resolution I have been asked to move is as follows:—

"That this meeting, recognising the paramount duty of seeking the physical, moral, and spiritual welfare of poor children, considers the important service rendered to society and the Church of Christ for these objects by the operations of the Ragged School Union and its affiliated Institutions, a cause for devout thankfulness, and one which renders their continuance and extension a matter of great urgency."

Coming as I do from the parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, of which I have the honour to be rector—a parish in which my revered predecessor, Canon Cadman, carried on eight schools at a cost of about £2,000 annually—I felt I could not refuse the somewhat sudden summons to address this great assembly. Now, I believe the best and most effective speeches that can be delivered on behalf of Ragged Schools come from the children behind me. I am reminded of a very remarkable preacher in Dublin, some years ago, who was asked to plead the cause of a certain orphan institution. He was a preacher of great eloquence and power, and his name attracted an enormous congregation. But when he got into the pulpit he saw behind him in the gallery the orphans. When he had finished the opening prayers and given out his text, he paused and, we are told, burst into tears. He said, "I cannot preach. There they are, a mightier sermon than I can preach. Look at them, and give, and God bless your gifts."

They poured into the offertory gold and silver, watches, rings, gold chains, jewellery, diamonds, all sorts of precious gifts. The appeal of the orphans was more eloquent and telling than the most eloquent words of the great divine. There was a collection that day such as never before.

I have nothing to say against Board Schools. It was a magnificent idea to provide education for our children, and to make it a compulsory matter they should attend. But we are aware their object is different from ours. Their object is not the winning of souls to Christ; it is not their object to fill heaven with little children. Their object is laudable in its way; it is to remove ignorance and vice, so far as education will do it. But none the less, perhaps all the more, there is need for a distinctively religious work such as that of the Ragged Schools. We want men and women who amongst these children shall know nothing save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. As our Ragged School teachers thus act, depend upon it, they shall be abundantly blessed.

Last year I listened on this platform to a speaker who is well known and respected in my parish. He is a bootmaker, doing a considerable business, and having several establishments. It was with great pleasure I heard him tell how he owed everything to his Ragged School education received in one of Canon Cadman's schools.

I may mention that in my parish there are two most interesting Ragged Schools, one belonging to my own church and one to my friend Newman Hall's congregation. My own school is sadly overcrowded. I should be thankful to obtain a proper building.

The Rev. J. M. GIBBON said: Sir Robert, Ladies and Gentlemen,—This resolution commits the meeting to three statements. First, it calls upon us to recognise and bear in mind the paramount importance of Ragged School work. Now that is a right and honest way of beginning; for in days when work is rapidly growing on our hands to such an extent, and Christian people have so many demands made on their generosity, time, talents, and sympathy, it is a matter of capital importance to re-examine year by year each department of Christian labour in order to satisfy our conscience that it is still worth doing, that it is indeed a great and real work, and a matter of necessity. It is important so to test any organisation, no matter how venerable, lest on the one hand we be found engaged in the unprofitable task of killing dead lions, and lest on the other hand we be overcome by the cavils of idle revilers. You remember how the very greatness of the work on which he was engaged saved Nehemiah from the seductions of those who lived in that suitably-named place—the plain of O-no. When asked to come down his reply was, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down." He was saved by the very magnitude of the work he was doing. So you will find safety from many allurements in a due sense of the importance of your work.

Well, now, this Ragged School work—what is it? This resolution informs us what it is: "Seeking the physical, moral, and spiritual

welfare of poor children." You have only to look around you to satisfy yourselves that the work is great and pressing. Look around; is it not true that our English Christianity is surrounded and invaded by a surging, seething mass of English heathenism? As a matter of fact, we are growing all the ignorance, crime, and miseries of heathenism on our English soil. Within the sound of our church bells, and under the very shadow of our church steeples, are thousands of children, with no joy of childhood, living a life that is no life, in homes that are no homes; with sots for fathers, harlots for mothers; with kicks and curses for education; cradled in circles where crime is conventional, where girls are made to sin for bread, and boys are trained to thieving as a regular profession. Is that an overdrawn picture? You who are familiar with the lowest depths know it is not.

Well, what do they want? Like the Irish beggar, who, when asked, "What do you want?" answered, "Faith, sir, it's everything I'm wanting, I think." So there are thousands of boys and girls in this London, and in all the large towns of England and Wales, who, if asked, might well reply, "It's everything we want"—body, soul, and spirit, all want nourishing, uplifting, training, teaching. And Christian men and women—you of the Ragged School Union, you Ragged School teachers, if you do not take pity on these children, if you don't do something for them, if you don't seek them out, and gather them into your schools, rags and all, and teach and train them, and let them hear from your lips of the great love of God, of the pity and power of God—if you do not do this, they will live out their days in sin, knowing God's name only as an oath, and Christ as an expletive; swelling by their crimes the devil's sad regiment of the line. Truly they want everything; the work is a great one, it is not a work of supererogation. It is the need, the crying need of our day.

Then, in the second place, the resolution declares that the work has been a successful one; it calls on us to declare that the work which has been done by the Ragged School Union is a cause for devout thankfulness, that it has proved itself fitted for the great enterprise. There is an honest ring about that, it invites examination. I think it is well we should examine our institutions very critically, to see if they are really accomplishing the end proposed. We must take no institution on trust, we must make sure it is achieving something.

I remember a story from the Principality. I am rather fond of the Principality—in fact, I elected to be born there. A certain divine preached a sermon on the origin of evil, and some one who had managed to keep awake during the discourse persuaded him to publish it. He did so in a pamphlet, and he was so proud of it he went about the country to circulate it. One day he met a countryman, and after some talk produced his sermon. "I've got a good sermon here on the origin of evil." "What's that, sir?" "How the devil got into the world. I'll sell it you for sixpence." "Well, I'll take it, but I'll tell you what, I'd much rather give you a shilling for a sermon on how

to get him out." Now, ladies and gentlemen, our business is to get him out, and we won't take any institutions on trust, or help to keep existing organisations going, unless we are sure they are helping to get him out. Now, I believe the Ragged School Union is helping to get him out, is doing a great deal in undoing evil.

I notice you are going to work in a very sensible way, seeking the physical, moral, and spiritual welfare of the children. The Christian Church has too long forgotten that men have bodies as well as souls. In early times there was a very amiable old saint, Francis of Assissi, who spoke of every one as "brother" this and that, and who used to refer to his own body as Brother Ass. Well, let it be so; but even if the body were an ass, there is scriptural authority for treating your donkey in the right way. And in these days, when Brother Ass has so much more work to do and more burdens to carry, it is prudent of us to see that Brother Ass is well taken care of. As a matter of fact, the Ragged School Union does help, help greatly. It is lifting beggars from the dunghill and setting them among princes.

There is a gentleman present, a friend of mine, who has been engaged all his life in Ragged School work. Some time ago he took a trip to the North of England. On getting out of the train he noticed a great man between six and seven feet looking fixedly at him. He began to turn over in his mind whether he had paid all his bills before he left London. When he was moving out of the station the man tapped him on the shoulder. "It's coming now," he thought. "Well, what do you want?" "Is your name so-and-so?" "It is." "Don't you remember me?" He looked up at the great fellow; no, he couldn't remember any one so big. "Don't you remember little Bill so-and-so?" Yes, he could, but surely this could not be him. "Yes, I am." Then he told him how he was now a commercial traveller in comfortable circumstances, had married a good wife, had some nice children and a nice house, was a member of a Christian church and a teacher in a Sunday School, and said he, "I've £500 in the bank, and if you want it for the school you can have it."

Now there is a specimen of the work done by the Ragged School Union, and it is work well worth doing. Its work is good for the world that now is and for the world that is to come. It fights against Dirt, Disease, and Rags; against Error and Ignorance; against Vice and Crime and Hell itself. It rescues souls from the pit, and helps to fill the mansions of Heaven.

There were two old souls who lived next door to one another down in Wales. One was very good, and the other very different. By dint of prayer and godly exhortation old William got his neighbour to Christ. When they asked what caused the change he used to say, "Thank God and old William." And I think that when up yonder his old neighbours met him and said, "How came you here?" he would say, "By the grace of God and old William." I venture even to say if some extra officious angel were to order him not to link the two names together God himself would say, "What God hath joined let not man

nor angel put asunder." I am thinking to-night there are men and women in Paradise gathered from the slums of London who say, "We are here through the grace of God and Lord Shaftesbury," or Sir Robert Carden, or some other Ragged School workers. Surely that is something worth doing, that in the salvation of souls your name should be linked with the name of God.

Finally, the resolution calls upon us to declare that the continuance and extension of this work is a matter of great urgency. Now, the work is worth doing. The Union is fitted for the work; it is doing it. Will you with one voice vote "urgency" to-night? ("Ay.") Carried, as Mr. Gladstone says, *nemine contradicente*. See, then, that your deeds and your gifts go with your voice. Go forward in God's name. Many of you have given your life to this glorious work, but it is well worthy of it. Worldly-wise men may scorn it, but the work is grandly worthy of the workers. You remember Mrs. Schimmelpennick when she was dying said, "I hear such sweet voices, and the children's are the loudest." Long may death spare your noble President; but, when his time does come, when on his ears shall burst the music of the heavens, he and all workers in this noble cause shall hear many sweet voices of welcome, and the children's *shall be the loudest*—the children of the Ragged Schools.

The Rev. H. T. BERGUER said: I remember my old friend Judge Payne telling us that not unfrequently the resolutions passed and carried unanimously at public meetings might be regarded as unredeemed pledges. Now we do not want any unredeemed pledges to-night. The resolution I am asked to move is as follows:—

"That this meeting, regarding with pleasure the growing practice of giving to the more weakly children the benefit of prolonged rest and change in the country, commends the action of the Union in securing a 'Country Cottage' for the extension of so health-giving an enterprise."

We want that resolution not merely carried at this meeting, but carried into effect, carried out into practice. Now standing here on the platform of the Ragged School Union, one cannot help thinking how little the world hears of the work; there is very little of dash and glitter and noise and excitement about the work of Ragged School teaching. It is carried on for the most part in retired courts and alleys, just where the children are to be found, just where the need is greatest. Many unfamiliar with this phase of the work find considerable difficulty in discovering these centres of usefulness. I remember on one occasion, when asked to go to Chequer Alley, I was walking with a lady and gentleman who had undertaken to show me the way; but being not altogether familiar themselves with these mysterious turnings and windings we got into some difficulty in the dark. However, the poor residents were most civil, and guided us to our destination. Now in such places is your work done; and when we come to Exeter Hall and hold a great and enthusiastic meeting like this, the daily papers, which give columns

to a race or trial, give two or three lines to the great meeting. But if the work be little known here below, its records are written on high ; and in the songs of the children, in their bright merry faces, we have listened to more eloquent pleading on behalf of Ragged School work than could be uttered by any speaker, however powerful and persuasive.

We look at that Ragged School tree planted in the courts of London, and spreading into many branches of usefulness and fruitfulnesss, and on the top we see a tender twig of real pity, of a desire to provide country homes for the weakly and suffering children. We mean to help this Country Home work, we mean it shall be a temporal and spiritual blessing to many; and in so helping we shall earn the children's blessing and the commendation of our loving Master.

Dr. CORY said: Sir Robert Carden, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I second the resolution which has been read to you with much pleasure. It is a resolution which commends itself to your notice by the necessity of the suffering ones. We want to get a number of homes or country cottages for these children; not for the children you see before you, but for those who are not here—for the poor little unbefriended, destitute, sickly, ragged ones who come to our schools.

Now what are you going to do for these children? We want at least seventy cottages in country and suburban districts for these children who require fresh country air. Then might not seven or eight hundred ladies take a child for a time? When one thinks there are ladies who give £5, £20, and even £110 for a dog, while there are thousands of these children starving and dying in our back courts and slums! when one thinks on these things one feels there was sound sense in the prayer of the poor child at George Yard who prayed for the poor rich that God would have mercy upon them. Surely there are many ladies who might take in hand and send to country villages one little child, or else give the money to send one. Other children, by thousands, need training and teaching; the Ragged Schools provide these, but they must be supported. Are there not four or five hundred ladies who will give themselves, and induce others to give, to the Ragged School Union, so that this noble work shall be sustained and extended by their gifts?

Mr. J. G. GENT said: I have been invited to move a resolution of thanks to Sir Robert Carden for occupying the chair; but I feel constrained to add to the resolution some reference to our noble President, whose letter has been read to you. It will read thus:—

"The thanks of the meeting are hereby presented to our dear friend, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., for his life-long services on behalf of Ragged Schools; and to Sir Robert Carden, M.P., for his kindness in presiding here on this occasion."

Our friend Sir Robert not merely takes the chair on this occasion, but he has been a life-long worker in the cause—not only at Ogle Mews, with which he is immediately connected, but also at George Yard and elsewhere I have seen him encouraging the workers and doing the work of

a Ragged School teacher. Long may he be spared, together with our noble President, to continue his work.

Mr. H. R. WILLIAMS said: I gladly second the resolution, and put it to the meeting.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said: You have heard this is the forty-first anniversary of the Ragged School Union, and you have also heard that during that time the Earl of Shaftesbury has occupied the chair forty times, and that he was very anxious indeed to be here this night. He does, therefore, deserve your thanks. When I look on this audience I recall the time when Ragged Schools had great difficulty in getting an audience at all. I can remember when hardly half a dozen persons were present. That day is past; people know what Ragged Schools are doing, know something of the value of the work. Facts are stubborn things, and they are on our side. This night you have seen 814 receive prizes for keeping their situations for one or more years, and in that you see that the children are acquiring a steadiness of purpose which will help them greatly in the future. I may say I feel pleasure in taking Earl Shaftesbury's place—not pleasure because he is absent, but willingness to serve the great cause of Ragged Schools. I look on him and myself as cotemporaries. We were born in the same year, although he is a few months older than myself. May he be spared to take the chair on many future occasions, and may I be there to see.

The children having sung a closing hymn, "Holy Father, hear my cry," the Rev. E. N. Willson, M.A., pronounced the benediction.

AN INDUSTRIAL SHOW AND ROYALTY.

ON Monday, May the 4th, the Princess Louise, accompanied by the Marquis of Lorne, went to the Drill Hall, Whitechapel, to open the East London Industrial Exhibition. The common people have hearts that are readily touched by the kindness of great people, hence on this occasion, though the weather was unfavourable, they thronged the streets and waited patiently to catch a glimpse of Royalty. The previous Royal visit to the East-end was paid by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the occasion being the opening of the new wing to the London Hospital. "Then as now, houses and shops had, in the course of a few hours, become metamorphosed into dreams of colour. Crimson cloth and blue and gold fringe hung from the windows; Venetian masts, decorated with trophies of banners, relieved each other at frequent intervals; suspended from them hung lines of smaller pennons of every colour; flags of every nation and of every colour overhung the thoroughfare, while from many a window were displayed loyal greetings. A vast sea of faces stretched from Aldgate to Baker's Row. The Royal equipage made its way slowly towards

the Drill Hall, the Princess repeatedly bowing her acknowledgments and the Marquis frequently raising his hat in response to the deafening cheers which greeted their appearance."

On the Royal party alighting, amid repeated cheering from the surrounding thousands, Lord Aberdeen presented the gentlemen belonging to the committee to the Marquis and Princess, while Lady Hobart performed a similar office for the ladies. Then, escorted by Lord Aberdeen, the Princess—looking remarkably neat in a dress of plain grey material with a bonnet to match—followed by the Marquis, hat in hand, together with the Duke and Duchess of Westminster, the Countess of Aberdeen, Lord Aberdare, Lord Chelmsford, the Marchioness of Stafford, the Countess of Harrowby, the Countess of Rosslyn, the Countess of Tankerville, the Countess of Durie, the Dowager Lady Lyttelton, Lady Ashburton, Lady Ashley, Lady Victoria Buxton, Mr. C. T. Ritchie, M.P., Sir A. Sullivan, the Rev. A. J. Robinson, Lord Aberdeen, the Marchioness of Ripon, Lady Hobart, Lord Hobart, Lieut.-Col. Donald Munro, Dr. Dundas Grant, the Rev. R. C. Billing, Mrs. McLaglen, Miss Dundas Grant, Mr. A. C. A. McLaglan, Sir T. F. Buxton, Messrs. E. N. Buxton, B. H. Martindale, Montague, Seigenberg, Young, James, and others.

The Princess, having formally declared the Exhibition open, proceeded with her husband to make a tour of the stalls. The Princess was most kind and gracious in her demeanour, shaking hands with those who had been foremost in providing and arranging the exhibits. Among these were our friends George Holland and Charles Montague, whose names are household words in the East-end.

The stall of King Edward Street was gay with banners, and had a plentiful display of plain and fancy needlework, which was very much admired by the Princess, as was also the beautiful drawings of the night scholars by the Duke of Westminster and the Marquis of Lorne.

The George Yard stall, which was taken every day by persons of distinction, exhibited a great variety of industry—fretwork, picture frames, mirrors, models of cottages, artificial flowers and feathers, painted patterns, embossed plates of copper and brass. The boy who exhibited the latter things was an old scholar at George Yard. His exhibits gained the notice of the Princess, by whom he was requested to wait on her at Kensington Palace with designs of his door panels, which were accepted, and an order given for the making of the same. A great deal of plain work was exhibited made by young people and adults. Stuff was bought and employment given to poor people, who received ample pay for their industry when the things were sold, which happily most things were. Nearly £80 was taken, the greater

part of which was handed over to the poor whose things were exhibited.

The boys from Dr. Barnardo's Homes pursued their various industries. Their aptitude and skill were open to the day, and won great admiration. There were upwards of 800 exhibits, many of which displayed considerable taste and ingenuity.

Returning to the platform, the Marquis said: "I have to thank you and the inhabitants of the East-end generally for the cordial reception they have been good enough to give us. It has been a great pleasure to the Princess to be able in some way to take the place of the Queen, who always takes such deep interest and shows such sympathy in the weal and welfare of all her subjects. (Applause.) Without attempting to make an exhaustive survey of the Exhibition, I can only allude to the very great interest shown in it by the vast crowds we saw in the streets to-day. I congratulate all those who have exhibited, and the ladies also who have been at so much care and pains to make the Exhibition a success—she who represents not only England, but India on this occasion—Lady Ripon and Lady Hobart. Another feature of peculiar interest has been the presence of many of the children from Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and as it would be illogical and wrong to open an exhibition such as this without giving them their reward, may I be allowed to ask that on this occasion they may have a holiday?" (Applause.)

The distinguished visitors afterwards made their way amid another burst of cheering to the carriage.

The Earl of Shaftesbury (the President) had been confidently expected to be present at the opening of the Exhibition, but at the last moment the following letter was received from his lordship by Mr. C. Montague, superintendent of the King Edward Ragged Schools and a member of the Exhibition Committee:—

"24, Grosvenor Square, May 2nd, 1885.

"My dear Montague,—It would have given me the sincerest pleasure to have been present at the Exhibition on Monday, but I dare not attempt it, for my health is not yet equal to such an exertion. Ever since the commencement of these Industrial Exhibitions I have been one of their stoutest admirers, and as far as I am able, of their supporters. They bring out an amazing amount of talent and practical power among the working classes; and I prize them the more as they give happy and useful employment for the evenings, encourage them to stay at home and enjoy many hours of domestic life. The wives and children are often and most usefully turned to account in these operations. The family gets, I believe, as much good out of them as

the men. You know my long attachment to the people of the East-end. I have always said that they were the best people in London; and so they are.—Yours truly, "SHAFTESBURY."

On looking down the official list of prizes we find that the silver and bronze medals, £18 17s. 6d. in money, and thirty certificates were awarded to the King Edward Ragged Schools. George Yard carried off a silver medal, £4 3s. 6d., and twelve certificates. This speaks well for the industrial training given in our evening schools, and we hope that all our institutions will see their way to industrial work of a varied kind, so as to meet the varying capacities, and above all as a means to the formation of an industrial habit, which is a great safeguard in life.

During the three weeks the Exhibition was open 45,000 persons passed the turnstile, and at its close the prizes were distributed by the Marquis of Ripon.

LORD SHAFTESBURY AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL.

THE devoted services rendered by the Earl of Shaftesbury to the cause of Ragged Schools met, on Tuesday evening, May 19th, with a graceful and becoming recognition at the hands of the old scholars. The Lower Room of Exeter Hall was filled with a large and influential company, who had assembled to witness the presentation to the noble Earl of an illuminated address and six framed copies in oil of Holman Hunt's picture, "The Light of the World." At the commencement of the proceedings the meeting was led to expect an exceptional treat, for Mr. Charles Montague, who has acted as hon. secretary of the movement, announced that the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone had expressed his fixed intention of being present to do honour to the noble Earl. The Earl of Aberdeen, who was to preside, Mr. Montague added, had gone to the House of Commons in order to bring the Prime Minister to the meeting. It is needless to say that this announcement highly delighted those present, and great was the disappointment when Lord Aberdeen entered the room subsequently unaccompanied by the Premier. It was explained that Mr. Gladstone had been summoned to attend the Council at Windsor, and had not then returned to town. Precisely at six o'clock the chair was taken by Sir Harry Verney, Bart., M.P., Lord Shaftesbury's schoolfellow, as he delights to call himself, Lord Aberdeen not having arrived. Among those present were Lord Mount-Temple, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Lord Ashley, Lady

Temple, Lady Edith Ashley, Hon. Lionel Ashley, the Countess of Aberdeen, the Bishop of Bedford, the Rev. Canon Fleming, B.D., Alderman Sir W. McArthur, M.P., Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., Mr. W. Fowler, M.P., Mr. A. Pease, M.P., the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, Professor Leone Levi, Mr. Martin Ware, Mr. T. A. Denny, Mr. H. R. Williams, Mr. R. R. Glover, Mr. S. E. Haward, Mr. J. G. Gent, Mr. A. J. S. Maddison, Mr. A. O. Charles, Mrs. Bayley, Mr. J. Kirk, Mr. R. J. Curtis, and many others.

The Earl of Shaftesbury was not present at the opening. The proceedings commenced by singing "All people that on earth do dwell." The Bishop of Bedford afterwards offered prayer. Mr. Montague then read the letters of apology for non-attendance that he had received, and these included communications from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Grafton, the Marquis of Donegal, Earl Percy, Lord Carington, the Marchioness of Ripon, Sir J. Pease, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., and other influential persons.

The first resolution was moved by the Rev. Canon FLEMING, B.D. It was in the following terms:—

"That this meeting desires to record its grateful recognition of the distinguished services rendered by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., who, as President of the Ragged School Union, has unceasingly devoted his time and talents in benefit ing the poor children of London and other large cities."

Canon FLEMING said it was no ordinary occasion that had brought them together that night. They had met to render their public tribute of respect and affection to one who had rendered most distinguished services to the cause of Ragged Schools throughout a long and honoured career. Lord Shaftesbury had in his time seen many changes, but through them all he had never changed or swerved from the unshaken fidelity to God and to the truth as it is in Jesus that had characterised his whole life. Among the many-sided services Lord Shaftesbury had rendered to the Christian Church and, indeed, to the world at large, none were more in accordance with the feelings of his own heart than that mentioned in the resolution, viz., benefiting the poor children of London and other large cities. Having referred to Lord Shaftesbury's efforts on behalf of the juvenile chimney sweepers and of the factory children, Canon Fleming went on to say that Lord Shaftesbury had recognised the firm truth that the hope of a nation rested in its children, and that their eternal welfare was a matter of consequence to the commonwealth. (Cheers.) When they read the obituaries of great and good men who had passed away—such as the late lamented Earl Cairns—they were perhaps inclined to ask what shall we do, our great men are dying out. But there was no cause

for fear, for the hope of the nation lay not in the one hundred distinguished men who were gone, but in the thousands and thousands of children that are daily growing up and will form part of the national life. The hope of the world lay not in the sepulchre, but in the cradle.

Canon Fleming was proceeding to state that Lord Shaftesbury as a Christian had recognised his duty to look after the little ones, when the noble Earl entered the room and met with a perfect ovation. It is impossible to convey an adequate description of the enthusiasm his presence evoked. The whole meeting rose to its feet and cheered again and again, hats and handkerchiefs being waved as Lord Shaftesbury ascended the platform and took his seat beside Sir Harry Verney. His lordship was accompanied by Lord Ashley, Lady Edith Ashley, Lady Templemore, and the Hon. Mrs. Levett.

Canon Fleming's closing words as to this being the eventide of Lord Shaftesbury's life, the seventh day of his work, were very touching, and he awakened loving sympathy in many hearts when he said they all desired that his lordship should have rest from his manifold labours, as a prelude to that rest that remaineth for the people of God. Lord Shaftesbury had not only had a long life, but it had been well spent, and hence it had not brought a winter of discontent. Life, when in the bud and blossoming, or when ripe and full of hope, might be well to contemplate, but it was most beautiful when, like the mellow fruit, it was ready to fall when God called it. If any man might take a retrospect of his life with pride and honour it was Lord Shaftesbury, but he would urge him rather to look upward and forward to the future, for there was for him, when the earthly house of his tabernacle was dissolved, "a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (Cheers.) He concluded by quoting Mrs. Barbauld's well-known lines:—

> "Life! we've been long together
> Through pleasant and through cloudy weather.
> 'Tis hard to part when friends are dear;
> Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;
> Then steal away, give little warning,
> Choose thine own time;
> Say not 'good night,' but in some brighter clime
> Bid me 'good morning.'"

At this point Lord Aberdeen entered the room and presided over the meeting.

The resolution was seconded by Alderman Sir W. McArthur, M.P., who it will be remembered was Lord Mayor when Lord Shaftesbury entered upon his eighty-first year, and presided over

an enthusiastic meeting in the Guildhall, held in honour of his lordship's birthday. He spoke of Lord Shaftesbury's early career, and the efforts he had made for the emancipation of the negroes, and also of the amelioration of the condition of the women and children employed in the factories of our large towns. He spoke too of the bright political career that in early days opened before Lord Shaftesbury, and how he had refused a seat in Sir Robert Peel's Cabinet because the Government would not identify itself with the Ten Hours Bill. (Cheers.) There was no religious or philanthropic society with which he had not identified himself, and the country ought to be thankful that God's providence had raised up such a man. Speaking of the noble Earl's connection with Ragged Schools, he said it was impossible to estimate the benefit those efforts had conferred upon the country. The Ragged Schools owed Lord Shaftesbury a deep debt of gratitude, and he was pleased that some of the old scholars had come forward to do him honour.

In closing, Sir W. McArthur, turning to Lord Shaftesbury, said how pleased they all were to see him present, and with much emotion he expressed the fervent hope that his lordship might still be spared to us for some time longer. "You will leave behind you, Lord Shaftesbury, a name not inferior to the greatest philanthropists that have gone before—a name venerated and loved by all." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. H. R. WILLIAMS supported the resolution, and gave some details of his own experience as a Ragged School worker of some forty years' standing.

The resolution was agreed to with acclamation.

The noble CHAIRMAN, who was obliged to leave before the close of the meeting to catch the mail train for Scotland, made a few remarks previous to the presentation. He said that although the meeting was essentially one of those interested in Ragged Schools, yet these proceedings might be called of a national character, for whenever any body of persons united to pay a tribute of respect and honour to Lord Shaftesbury it excited a wave of enthusiasm throughout the whole nation, so comprehensive were his lordship's achievements and career. That meeting was only the apex point of a pyramid of feeling throughout the country. (Cheers.) He could not agree that Lord Shaftesbury had ever abdicated his high position in the councils of the nation. He was a great statesman when he carried the various measures already alluded to; he had been a great statesman ever since, and he was a great statesman to-day. He was a statesman in the best and truest sense, for he was a Christian statesman. (Applause.) He had conferred immense benefits, not only upon the poverty-stricken

and working classes, but also upon the wealthier portion of the population, the aristocracy, for he had been a standing witness that there were some amongst them who desired to devote their time and energies to the welfare of others. His efforts, too, on behalf of order and good government must not be forgotten, for the institutions he had set on foot had worked wonders in this direction. They to-night had only touched upon the barest outline of Lord Shaftesbury's career, but it was enough to make them feel thankful to God that He had enabled the noble Earl to exert such a vast influence for good on the country during his long life. (Loud cheers.)

The curtain which had been placed over the wall at the back of the platform was now lowered, and revealed a beautifully illuminated address and six copies in oil of Holman Hunt's picture, "The Light of the World," all handsomely hung in massive gilt frames. The pictures were severally inscribed to Lord Ashley, the Hon. A. Evelyn Ashley, the Hon. A. Lionel G. Ashley, the Hon. A. Cecil Ashley, Lady Templemore, and Lady Edith Ashley. Mr. C. Montague then read the address, which was inscribed, "From the Old Scholars of the Ragged Schools to the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.," and it was signed by a committee of thirteen, and countersigned by the Earl of Aberdeen and Mr. Montague. The following is the text of it:—

"Dear Lord Shaftesbury,—It seems very presumptuous for a few of the Old Scholars of your Ragged Schools to address your lordship by so familiar a name, but if you only knew what that dear and honoured name means to us, we feel sure we should be forgiven.

"Your lordship's name has been closely associated with all that is helpful and good in our lives, for without the aid we have derived from Ragged Schools, we plainly see from the vantage ground we have now gained that our present position must have been very different; by their means we have been taught the path of duty and encouraged to persevere in it. The teachers of these schools have been our best friends, and the name of Lord Shaftesbury, the President of the Ragged School Union, is the one name, and the only one, that collectively represents them.

"True life is not measured by its years, but by its results. Your lordship's has been a long life, even counted by its years; but how immeasurably longer when reckoned by its helpfulness to others! There are literally tens of thousands to whom your public and your private acts have brought comfort and happiness, and in thus helping the helpless you have benefited the whole English-speaking people, for Lord Shaftesbury's boys and girls are to be found in every British colony.

"With this address we ask the favour of your lordship's acceptance of six framed copies of Holman Hunt's 'Light of the World.' It has occurred to us that, if your lordship would present one to each of your own dear children, it would be a constant and happy memory to them of the larger family who claim a filial reverence for the name of their honoured father.

"Commending your lordship to the gracious blessing of a covenant-keeping God, we are, dear Lord Shaftesbury, ever gratefully yours," &c.

"May 19, 1885."

The Earl of Aberdeen having formally made the presentation,

When the Earl of SHAFTESBURY rose to reply it was the signal for another outburst of enthusiastic greeting.

His lordship began by saying that he was glad the address had been read by Mr. Montague, for he was a specimen of a Ragged School boy who, by diligence and good conduct, had risen to be a tradesman of reputed ability and character. As to the expression "Dear Lord Shaftesbury" being too familiar, he might say that when he began this work he called all the Ragged School teachers his brothers and sisters; when he grew older, he called them his sons and daughters, and now in his old age he called them his grandchildren —(laughter)—and if such expressions could not be used in such a family as that, he did not know when they could be applied. (Cheers.) He accepted, in the name of his surviving children, these tributes of kindness and affectionate respect, and he was sure they would prize them as deeply as he did himself, and would make them as far as they could heirlooms in their family. The history of the Ragged School movement was perhaps one of the most remarkable in the history of this or any other country. It was a special interposition of Providence. The state of things was more formidable than they could conceive, but a very great change had taken place. Formerly it was difficult to rouse people to a sense of the danger. The remedies that were proposed were said to be enthusiastic, quixotic, and foolish. But those who made that remark did not know what power the Gospel could have over the heart, and the effect of its teaching could be seen in the lives of the thousands of children who had been trained in the Ragged Schools. Years ago, when he walked through the courts and alleys of London, and saw the misery and degradation that prevailed, and when he considered whence the children sprang and whence he sprang, when he considered they were created by the same God, redeemed by the same Saviour, and destined to the same immortality, he conceived the hope that if efforts were made God would bless them in a way they little dreamt of before they made them. Just at that time his eye fell on an advertisement in the *Times* with regard to the Field Lane Ragged School. He inquired into it, and found there was a school attended by about five children where some good men were giving what instruction they could. Here, then, they began their operations, and continued notwithstanding the greatest possible difficulties, both public and private. The evil seemed increasing; the deeper they went, the wider the inquiries they made, the more insuperable the work seemed. But God willed it otherwise. A great number of centres were formed, and a body of devoted people, of whom it was difficult to speak with sufficient

affection, gave up their spare time, often after a hard day's work, to teach these children, in a spirit of self-denial and martyrdom. The results had been such that no human power could have effected. Yet in the face of all the facts, some people asked, What have Ragged Schools done? And some wanted to alter their title. He strongly objected, for the present was their true name. He would rather be President of the Ragged Schools than of the Royal Academy.

With much emphasis the noble Earl disclaimed that any credit was due to himself, the feeling in his heart being, "What hast thou that thou hast not received?" He deeply thanked them again for their kindness to him. A retrospect of life, especially of one that the world called "useful," might tend to self-righteousness; it was far better to look trustfully forward to a life in the glorious future. But concerning this life he might say in closing that, in the words of Bossuet, he prayed that the rest of his life, whatever its duration, might be consecrated to God's service—the remains of a voice that was beginning to fail, and of an ardour which was almost extinct.

The noble Earl resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.

The vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had presided over the meeting was moved by Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., seconded by Professor Leoni Levi, supported by Mr. J. G. Gent, and unanimously agreed to. Sir Harry Verney, in reply (Lord Aberdeen having left the hall), said that the name of Gladstone, or the name of Disraeli, or even the name of Gordon might be forgotten, but the name of Shaftesbury—(loud cheers and cries of "Never")—would never be forgotten. The Doxology was sung, and Canon Fleming pronounced the Benediction.

The following letter has been sent by the noble Earl:—

"St. Giles's House, Cranborne, Salisbury,
"May 25th, 1885.

"Dear Montague,—In reading over to myself the address presented to me the other night on behalf of many of the old scholars of the Ragged Schools, I have been able to give it more attention than when listening to it in a crowded assembly.

"I must tell you that I am deeply touched by its kind, affectionate, and intimate language and expressions. It has gone to my very heart.

"To call it an 'honour' would be simply an ordinary and conventional term, far below what I feel, and far below the occasion. It is a comfort, a positive comfort to me to learn that any efforts of mine have, under God's especial blessing, contributed to start those who signed the paper, on their own part and the part of many others,

in the joyous and happy career in which they are seeking and obtaining their own temporal and eternal welfare in the service of their Lord and Master.

"I may, and I shall, I doubt not, forget many things, but I shall not easily forget the impression that the sentiments of the document have produced on my heart.

"May God prosper you all.

"Yours truly,

"Mr. C. Montague." "SHAFTESBURY."

IN THE COUNTRY.

THIS pithy phrase has an interest for all town-pent folk, most of whom make it a matter of deep concern at this season as to how and when there can be effected the translation from the man-made town to the God-made country. Happily the interest is not restricted to the family circle, for Sunday and Ragged School teachers have bestowed anxious thought and care as to how the school children can have at least a day in the country. With the advent of fine weather the usual machinery has been set on foot. Collecting cards, letters in the newspapers, and other pleas have been adopted, and day by day may be seen merry children going by van or train to the green fields. The share of the Union in this joy-giving scheme will be indicated by the following letter from Lord Shaftesbury:—

"Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, W.C.

"May I repeat my customary appeal, at this season of the year, in aid of a fund to provide the Committee with the means of giving the poor children of many of the Ragged Schools a day in the country. It is proposed in addition to give a fortnight's change of air to as many as possible of the convalescent or enfeebled children specially needing it, and for this purpose a country cottage has been secured.

"The number who will thus obtain this great moral and physical benefit, either for the shorter or the longer period, will depend upon the response to this appeal, which I earnestly commend to your generous sympathy. "SHAFTESBURY."

The day in the country will be given to the smaller struggling schools which from various causes are not able to undertake a separate treat. In some cases, too, subsidies will be given. Whilst allowing no children to be deprived of this treat, the Committee are spending a portion of the funds received, as indicated above, in providing *a full*

fortnight's holiday for some of the weakly children from the Ragged Schools. By a joint arrangement with the local school with regard to the expense, it is hoped to send a large number of eligible children for the more satisfactory fourteen days' holiday.

For this purpose the Committee have secured the use of two buildings. The one on Thursley Common, near Godalming, Surrey, will accommodate twenty children at a time. It is charmingly situated on the corner of the common, giving the utmost freedom, amid the most delightful scenery, and the freshest air possible. Already the utility of this Holiday House has been demonstrated, and at the close of the summer season it is confidently expected that a satisfactory account will be given of the good it has effected. The other "Home" is of larger dimensions, and situated at East Grinstead, Sussex.

A coffee tavern, built for benevolent purposes, but found unsuitable, lends itself fittingly for the children's holidays. Some forty children can be accommodated here to enjoy the rural delights of this beautiful part of Sussex. The place is being fitted up for the reception of children with the utmost dispatch.

We have to thank the subscribers for so kindly enabling the Committee to accomplish so much for the enjoyment and the physical improvement of the children of our Ragged Schools.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETING AT GROSVENOR HOUSE.

Ragged School teachers are familiar enough with the shady side of London; it is not often they find themselves in Belgravia. Surely it is a hopeful sign when in one of the finest mansions of the West-end the cause of Ragged Schools should be advocated. The Duke of Westminster, so long interested in the work, invited friends and supporters of the Ragged School Union to meet in Grosvenor House on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 20th. The invitation was heartily responded to. The stately hall was crowded. Among those present were many persons of distinction, Lady Burdett-Coutts being of the number. His grace was unavoidably prevented from presiding at the commencement, and his place was taken by the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird.

After prayer by the Rev. Professor D'Orsey, Mr. John Kirk read letters of apology from the Marquis of Lorne, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Argyll, Earl of Harrowby, Earl of Aberdeen, Bishop of London, Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., &c., &c.

The Chairman then read a statement with regard to the present needs of the Ragged School Union.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., who on being called upon received a hearty welcome, said: You are good enough to call upon me to say a few words on this occasion. It is a very old and very hackneyed subject with me—some forty years old. And if it was difficult then, when one spoke so frequently, to find anything new to say, it is ten times more difficult now for me to make a speech on Ragged Schools than it was at first. I have advocated them so often, and repeated the case in all its different lights, and have become so habituated to it, that perhaps I do not sufficiently feel that my audiences are not the same, and that they may not be so familiar with all its aspects as I am.

Now I am perfectly well aware of the evils which still beset us in all our large cities, and we must watch earnestly against them if we would preserve institutions dear to us and the honour of our country. Now you cannot have a better plan for withstanding the encroachments of these evils than what is taking place at this moment—you have the most magnificent institutions of this or any other metropolis, and these institutions expressly designed to seek the welfare, temporal and eternal, of the lowest, the most destitute, most ignorant, the most forgotten class of the poor of our community. One point that has much impressed me is the bringing together of various ranks, the approximation of the rich with the poor in the work of Ragged Schools. I can only state from long experience I believe a great deal of mischief has arisen from the ignorance of one class of another. Nevertheless, when they are brought into contact, as they are in Ragged School work, we see that the sympathy of mind with mind and heart with heart is very effective for good results. When you thus bring them into contact, and show the poorest classes that those above them in station do really care for them and seek their interests, you achieve a great deal towards the peace, civilisation, and wellbeing of mankind and of our beloved land. I know very well, and have had occasion to see, the heartful kindness and invariable gratitude manifested by the lowest classes on those who really care for them.

Now we all know that the state of things to-day in certain districts is very formidable, but at the same time those old enough to remember what existed forty years ago know that there is a remarkable improvement in the condition of society. I know very well that when persons previously unacquainted with the state of things begin to consider the present condition of the poor in the metropolis they are perfectly aghast. All kinds of remedies are proposed; some of them are now waiting execution on behalf of what has been called Outcast London. Things are certainly bad enough—worse than many here can imagine—and I have no doubt the people who look on this terrible

state of things think nothing worse could possibly have existed. Now, excuse me for saying it, but I have seen a great deal of London; I believe I have gone over every nook and corner, and walked through courts and alleys of London in all districts, and I say, unhesitatingly, I see nothing compared to the state of things as they existed in former days. If you could only see the condition of the poor as it then was you would be perfectly astounded, and not one of you but would thank God and take courage for the future in the work done and results achieved. Although I have protested against the title "Outcast London," for none of it is really "outcast," yet I am very glad that general attention has been called to the subject, and that you have all been impressed with the picture given within the last two years of the condition of things. These statements were quite true, and yet I maintain that things are not so bad as they were; the fact is that they are better known.

Let me call your attention to one thing which will show it is quite true what I tell you. Some few years ago it would not have been safe, in an enormous part of London, for any elderly woman or young woman respectably dressed to go alone, unprotected by a male friend or the police; she could not have dared to do so. Now, I will undertake to say that any lady here in this room may dive into the deepest recesses of London, and I will engage to say that if it is known she is on a mission of mercy she will go in safety, and not only so, but from the roughest, the most ignorant, and the poorest, she will receive the greatest kindness and respect. It is a very great change indeed, and it is due to the operation of the institutions we call the Ragged Schools. Of course I do not claim for them the exclusive honour—other institutions have been at work, and have their share in producing this change. But I assert that I have a right to claim that Ragged Schools have had a very large share in the bringing about of these results, and also that they were the earliest agencies reaching the lowest class, and others now in operation have sprung out of their work. There are various agencies in operation in this and other large cities helping the poor, instructing the ignorant, healing the sick; but Ragged Schools were the first, and are still the foremost, in reaching the lowest, and the result has been an enlightenment and raising of this population which could never have been produced in any other way.

Last night I attended a meeting in Exeter Hall, called together for the purpose of showing me an act of kindness; and I told them an anecdote I want to tell you. I cannot tell it too often, for I want to show that the good of a movement like this is not confined to those who have derived an immediate benefit from it. Now some time ago I was

in a house in one of the worst parts of Whitechapel, and I found a man there sitting by the fire smoking his pipe. We entered into conversation, and he said to me: "I say, old chap, you come from the West, don't you?" "Yes," I said, "I come from the West-end." "Well," he says, "there's some wonderful things about the West-end, I hear fine things about it. Why don't you people from the West come down oftener and see us in the East? We're worth seeing, I can tell you." "That," I said, "is the very reason I have come to see you." I venture to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that the larger proportion of you do not know the state of things in the East-end, you do not know the dangers threatening society. But if you show these people kindness, though I do not say that you will avert great political changes, but I do know you will make those changes ten times less violent, and ten times less destructive, than they would be otherwise. Surely then, if we cannot ourselves do such work, the very least we can do is to help, and encourage, and support those who can and will do it.

There are hundreds of thousands of these people who never go to church or chapel—at least so as to be recorded in the newspaper statistics. But your Ragged Schools are helping in this also. I well remember some years ago a clerical gentleman wrote me from one of the worst parts of the New Cut: "I do not know your lordship at all, but I have heard of you, and I venture to tell you my difficulty and ask your advice. I have been here some time, and I cannot find my way to the people, or get them to church. Can nothing be done? My income is so small I cannot undertake anything large. I have written to you to ask your advice as to what should be done?" I wrote back to him: "Dear Sir,—I must see the patient and feel his pulse before I can give advice. The best thing I can do is to visit your parish and see what can be done." I did so. I visited his parish and spent some days walking in the different parts, and it was like a menagerie, I can tell you. I never saw in all my life such a state of things. "Well, my good friend," I said to him, "the best thing you can do is to start a Ragged School." "That is all very well," he replied; "but how is it to be done?" "Leave that to me," I said; "I have some friends and I will get the money." By-and-by we did open a Ragged School, and it went on famously, though they had some rough nights of it at first. About a year and a half after, the clergyman wrote to say he would like to call on me and tell me the results of the Ragged School. He did call, and told me the school had been so successful, he thought he might venture an Open-air Service. He announced that on the Sunday evening he would hold an Open-air Service in such and such a place, and he waited the time in con-

siderable trepidation. On the Monday or Tuesday after he came to my house with his face bright; he seemed all radiant with joy. "Now," I said, "tell me what happened." "I will tell you all," he replied. "At the time appointed I went to the court named. It was crammed. When I began to ascend the steps I looked around me, and there, to my consternation and horror, I saw in the very front rank some six or seven of the most notorious drunkards and worst characters in the neighbourhood. My heart sank within me; I felt sure they had come for a bad purpose. I prayed God to give me courage, and then I spoke as best I could. They were wonderfully quiet. After I had done I came down and found the men still there. I said to the chief of them, 'You will excuse me, but you cannot suppose I am ignorant of your character; what has made you act like this?' 'Well, parson, I'll tell you. Afore you came nobody showed any kindness to poor little 'uns, leaving them to their misery. But ever since you came you've tried to do good to the children. When we heard you was a-goin' to have an Open-air Service we said, "There'll be a lot of rough chaps there; come along, chaps, we'll go to the service and see the parson has fair play."'" Now but for the Ragged School that man never could and never would have listened in any way to the Gospel.

A great burglar once wanted to see me. I had no objection to receive him. Mark you, I had never seen him before and never saw him again; he talked of a number of things, but this is one thing he said that I want to tell you: "Keep hold of the little 'uns; you can't help us, we're too far gone, but save the little 'uns. I will confess the truth; if Ragged Schools had existed when I was a lad I should never have been brought to my disgraceful condition." That is the testimony of one of the very lowest and vilest of men; that man had never seen me before, he has never seen me since, but that is his testimony, and it is true, every word of it.

I fear that I should weary you by going on—if I were to talk for half an hour I could say no more than I have done. We are still carrying on these operations. True, they have been altered in one respect—the educational part is not what it was formerly. We are doing a good deal in Night Schools, but the Day Ragged Schools are not nearly so numerous as formerly. But there is still a very large work which must be done. Remember I am not speaking disparagingly of Board Schools, they are doing a good work; they give secular education. Ragged Schools are intended to give the knowledge of God, knowledge which the poor children can gain in no other way, knowledge of eternal things. I have seen children come into our schools wild and untamed as little savages, come in

without an idea of anything in this world or the next, except where they were to get their next meal. I have seen children come in who I do not suppose ever heard, since they were born, one word of kindness or respect; who were accustomed to nothing but the language of execration and oaths. Now we take these children and work on them by love. We have always proceeded on the principle of having as little punishment as possible. We hold our position by means only of loving-kindness. These children come into the schools wild, lawless, uncouth; their parents cannot manage them, they do not try to; we show them kindness and respect, and we win their hearts. I have seen the most wild, the most fierce, the most uncouth so changed, that after a time I can only compare them to a spaniel attached to its master. I have scarcely ever seen such affection and gratitude as some of these children show for their teachers. They never knew love before, and they warm up to it wonderfully.

Now I want to show you the patience the teachers require. Such a thing, it is true, is not likely to occur now, but let me tell you of one who kept a large shop in Oxford Street, and who gave his spare time entirely to Ragged School work. One afternoon when teaching a large class of very rough boys, one who had only lately come offended him, and imprudently he gave the boy a blow. The lad took no notice of it at the moment, but presently, unseen by the teacher, he crept behind him, got between his legs, and rising suddenly, threw him to the ground. The teacher went on quietly with the lesson. He knew, and all teachers know, that to take notice of such a thing would have broken up the whole school, for all the boys would have sided with the one who was punished. He bore the insult then without a word, and the wild boy seemed amazed. What was the result? That very boy lived to be one of the best boys in the school, and he left it to do honour to himself and the school in the position he occupied. There are, it is supposed, at least a hundred thousand people who never stay more than a few weeks, or perhaps occasionally two months, in one district. There is no work more worthy of your consideration than the Ragged Schools.

Now, many years ago, at the outset of this work, there were those who talked in this way: "Leave them alone; what good can you do? It is a perfectly hopeless case; their destiny is fixed; you must leave them to their inevitable destiny." We have proved it otherwise; people who talked that way knew nothing of the power of God's grace, knew nothing of the effect of the teaching of the Gospel by Christian and loving men and women. We have proved it, we have seen its effects, we have thousands of these very children living and walking in the light of the Gospel of God. You may find

them in the most distant colonies, knowing and serving God, who came from such places. And you may find them at home, hundreds and thousands of them, happy and comfortable in every way, in domestic service, in trade, and in the Army and Navy; and some you may find in high positions who came out of the Ragged Schools, and who, but for the Ragged Schools, would have become the lowest criminals. I ask you, in the name of God, what would have been the condition of this great metropolis at the present time if these children had been left alone to pursue their own courses; to become criminals instead of Christians, to disgrace their country instead of being an honour to this and other lands? Bad as things are now, what would they have been but for the Ragged Schools and other movements springing out of this work?

I can say no more, my voice fails; I can only hope you will do all that in you lies to foster this great movement. I plead for the Ragged School movement as I would plead for any other movement of the kind, in view of the danger surrounding us. There are many dangers, spiritual, social, and physical, accumulating, but if you will persevere, here you have a remedy for these evils. I pray you try your gifts, your prayers, your efforts, and God will bless you and your work, and make it a blessing to rich and poor in this great metropolis.

Samuel Smith, Esq., M.P., said: I have been practically interested in this movement for many years. It is quite true that a part of the work has been done during the past forty years, but still there is a very large amount to be done. Now the question arises, How is this to be done—by voluntary effort, or by the public authorities? I feel that in London and in all large cities there is a very large work which can only be done by Ragged School workers—that is, by voluntary effort. It is undoubtedly the duty of the School Board in London and elsewhere to correct the evil as far as may be, and there is no doubt they have succeeded in bringing in the great mass of the children. But is there no work for the Ragged Schools? There is, indeed. Even apart from the religious and moral element there is a certain kind of education required which the Board Schools do not give; it is that training which fits these lowest class children for the ordinary work and duties of life—children whose homes have been described in the Report just presented to the House of Commons by the Committee on the Housing of the Poor, and which is a most painful report to read. What is to become of these children, even supposing the School Board can teach them all? At the age of twelve or thirteen they are turned loose on the streets. Their parents are helpless in the matter; they are excessively poor, often drunkards or of bad character, and they are certainly unfit to train their children for a useful career. They are

left to run the streets, picking up odd coppers as they can, until at the age of manhood and womanhood their habits have become so confirmed, it is almost impossible to do anything for them.

Now the work of the Ragged School Union just steps in here—to a large extent it is industrial, and endeavouring to fit these children for future life. I can conceive of no more useful work, and I cannot conceive of a more effectual means of raising and helping such children. The time and money put forth in this way will be amply repaid.

The Rev. Donald Fraser, D.D., said: The utility of Ragged School work, as a means of dealing with juvenile indigence and ignorance, has been abundantly proved, and ought not only to awaken your interest, but also to stimulate your generosity on its behalf. The loving, patient, and courageous service of so many Ragged School teachers, who are endeavouring to help and bless the children of the poor, ought to touch your hearts. There are persons who grumble, as you will find those who grumble at other good things. "These charitable institutions," they cry, "are an endless affair; they sometimes do a good deal of mischief." We ask what mischief Ragged Schools have done. We do not pauperise, we do not encourage extravagant thriftlessness and recklessness. In taking care of those who have been neglected, who are themselves helpless, in training them to help themselves, we cannot be accused of mischief. The recklessness, unthrift, and even misconduct of their parents, cannot be laid to the charge of the children. It may be urged that every man should be compelled to provide training and education for his children. We have not the least objection to that; but meanwhile we cannot stand by and see these young lives blighted, and a fresh race of the kind rising up. Besides, you cannot suppose that habits of recklessness and selfishness can be cured by the fear that the children will suffer; the fear of eternal wrath has not checked man's selfishness and sin, and a dread of the kind I have mentioned cannot be expected to do so. Moreover, you are going about the best way to cure these evils; you are training the children in self-respect and self-control; you are teaching them glorious moral lessons of temperance, industry, frugality, and thus laying the foundation for well-doing in their future career. We will not object when these principles become so widely spread that ragged children no longer exist. I fear we shall have to wait a long time, and meanwhile we have our work to do in order to heal the evils that lie at the lowest depths of the fabric of society.

One thing more. In taking remedial steps of this kind you are but following the ways and methods of God Himself in dealing with men. He not only warns of the consequences of sin, but provides a

way of escape. He will yet establish a reign of righteousness and peace on the earth; meanwhile He works remedially among the children of men, pardoning the guilty, raising the fallen, cleansing the defiled. And to us He has committed His Divine truth and Divine love, that in the darkest parts of earth we may make them known. It is Christianity that has taught us this. Before Christianity was in the earth, the world was without love. Love of country, of parents, of kindred, of money, there was; but not the love of compassion, pity of the poor and helpless. Heathen religions had no lessons or institutions of mercy. The philosophers never put charity among the virtues. It is under Christ we learn the charity which "seeketh not her own."

Professor GLADSTONE said: We have been working for forty years, but we must not relax our efforts. Very great success has attended the labours of this Union in past times, still much remains for the future. It will not be within the lifetime of any here that this work will become unnecessary. Mr. Smith has spoken of the necessity of industrial training for the children, and we have to care for children of those migratory people who are able to set the compulsory law at defiance. For both these objects this Union is urgently wanted. But there is a great necessity in London in another way. We have crèches for little ones whose parents have to go out to work. The mothers have to leave their infants somehow if they are to earn bread for their families, and it is pitiful to think of tender babes left all alone from eight in the morning, or left in charge of mere children. These we take into our day nurseries at a small charge, sending them, when they reach three or four years, to the nearest Board School, and thus giving them the habit of school-going. But for children of a somewhat older age we provide no refuges of the kind. Very many of these are locked out until late hours at night. Where are they to spend the time? Only on the street. Surely, in taking care of these children before and after school hours, and at the same time training them morally and industrially before they have learned to be vicious, we should be doing a real and important work.

One thing more: the work of this Union is pre-eminently religious. Happily there is now a good supply of elementary schools, and in all of them religious instruction is given as well as secular. Yet we do want many friends with hearts aglow with the love of the Saviour and the love of children, to go in and out amongst the neglected little ones to teach them some one loves them, some one cares for them, to give them the knowledge of God, to make them feel there is some purpose in life, to give them a strong motive to do right in this world. These

practical and grand objects the Ragged School Union and the organisations connected with it are endeavouring to carry out.

Mr. H. R. Williams, in moving a vote of thanks to the Duke of Westminster, said: It is almost impossible to estimate what Ragged Schools have done during the past forty years. Remember these Ragged Schools are not confined to this great London; they have extended to many other great cities, and had it not been for such work, he believed with Lord Shaftesbury, London would have been almost uninhabitable. I have often urged the question, "What would London have been without Ragged Schools?" We can only say it must have been infinitely worse than it is at present. You have heard about the state of London forty years ago; we have heard the "bitter cry" all these years, and we have been endeavouring with some considerable success to alleviate the state of things. People have only lately found out the state of things which we have been pointing out all the time. Last night in Exeter Hall some of us met to do Lord Shaftesbury honour. There were there a number of old Ragged Scholars, amongst them one I have known for thirty-five years, one who is an excellent designer, and whose sons have shown great ability as artists. One of these sons teaches a number of boys in our Ragged School in Spitalfields, and if you go so far East as the exhibition in Whitechapel you will see specimens that could hardly be excelled in any of the Board Schools. And the same remark applies to the needlework. That Ragged School has taken six prizes for drawing and needlework, and the fact speaks highly for the capabilities of ragged scholars.

I maintain that Ragged Schools give as much as they get. I am very thankful and grateful to the Duke of Westminster for having invited us here to-day. It will be a great help and encouragement to us. It is some reward for labour, some recognition of the needs of the poor in London. For forty years we have been alleviating distress, rescuing the outcast, clothing the naked, teaching the ignorant, and not infrequently feeding the hungry.

Professor Leone Levi seconded the vote of thanks.

The Duke of Westminster said: I am very glad to welcome you here to-day; I only regret I was not here at the commencement, but was unavoidably detained at another meeting, having been suddenly asked to take the chair. I will only, at this late hour, say my acquaintance with Ragged School work has extended over many years, more especially in Chester. I am sorry not to have returned in time to meet Earl Shaftesbury, but I am glad to learn that he was able to address this meeting at some length. I trust what you have heard to-day will awaken more interest in and bring more help to

your schools. I would, had I time, speak of the remarkable diminution of crime—which, although other influences have been at work, has been largely owing to the moral and religious training of Ragged Schools. I welcome you most cordially to this house, and if these rooms can be useful to the Ragged School Union on any future occasion they are heartily at the service of the Union.

The collection was an informal one; some persons voluntarily gave, and others followed. A plate being provided, a sum amounting to £25 12s. 6d. was deposited there. The Duke of Westminster gave £200; Baroness Burdett-Coutts, £25, and W. L. Burdett-Coutts, Esq., £25; Samuel Smith, Esq., £25; Dr. Gladstone, £10 10s.; and Miss Stohwasser, £5 5s.

RAGGED CHURCH AND CHAPEL UNION.

THE thirty-second annual meeting of this Society was held in the Lower Room, Exeter Hall, on Friday evening, May 22nd. Mr. Joseph Peters presided, supported by Messrs. W. A. Blake, W. Bramston, Gawin Kirkham, John Kirk, R. J. Curtis, Revs. W. Tyler, W. Frith, C. F. Vernon, &c. A hymn having been sung, prayer was offered by the Rev. J. S. STANION.

The Rev. BURMAN CASSIN, M.A. (honorary secretary), read an abstract of the Report, which stated that for less than £500 per annum more than one hundred places of worship are kept open and regularly supplied with evangelists. The following shows the attendance during the past year:—Preaching stations 102, at which were held 102 Sunday services with attendance, gross, 9,389; average 92. Sixty-nine week-night services with attendance, gross, 3,534; average 54. Thirty-six children's services with attendance, gross, 3,615; average 95. Fifty-four Sunday-schools with attendance, gross, 9,582; average 77. A cursory review of the details supplied from the several mission-stations furnished conclusive proof of the need which exists for the continued operations of the Union.

The treasurer's statement showed the total receipts (including balance in hand last year, £115 7s. 9d.) as £438 18s. 7d., and disbursements £495 8s. 10d., leaving a balance of £56 10s. 3d. due to the treasurer.

The CHAIRMAN said he was unable to speak from his own experience of the work of the Society, but the report showed that a grand and blessed work was being carried on. Lord Shaftesbury had said that more had been done by mission-halls than by all the churches.

The Rev. THOMAS FIELDER, in moving the adoption of the Report, said the Society was catholic because it had to do with the work in which all should be united—the salvation of men.

The Rev. Dr. O'BRIEN, in seconding the motion, said they were following in the footsteps of the Master in preaching the Gospel to the poor in those mission-halls. He sincerely valued that Society's work, and heartily commended it to their support.

The resolution was adopted.

Major EVERED POOLE moved the next resolution, which was seconded by Major J. SMITH.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by the Rev. T. HALL, and seconded by Mr. CHALLENGE.

In Memoriam.

MR. THOMAS BROOKER.
MISS MARY BROOM.
MR. THOMAS DALTON.
REV. PAXTON HOOD.
EARL CAIRNS.
LORD MAYOR NOTTAGE.

MR. THOMAS BROOKER.

WE are indebted to Dr. Cross for the following touching tribute to the memory of his life-long friend :—

In the person of the late Mr. Brooker the ministrations of the Ragged School Union, and kindred Sunday evening lay missions, have lost a most devoted and earnest fellow-labourer. For many years he was an active and zealous member of the Committee of the Union. Soon after the establishment of the Brewers' Court Ragged Schools he joined them, and became an effective working power in extending their more fully organised and administrative operations. Originally these were carried on in three small cottages. After a while, however, a successful effort was made in connection with the Crown Court Scotch Church towards collecting funds for the erection of a capacious school building, on the site of the old tenements, Mr. Brooker taking a leading part in it, and accepting

the office of one of the trustees. The establishment grew into one of the most complete of its kind in the metropolis, consisting of Day and Evening Boys' and Girls' Schools, Working Classes, Mothers' Meetings, a Penny Bank, and, in addition to these usual operations, a Soup Kitchen, with occasional Dinners, and a Dispensary for the benefit of the children, their parents and relatives, giving daily attendance at the Institution and visits at their homes.

When Mr. Brooker ceased to act on the Committee of Brewers' Court he established a course of Sunday evening devotional services in the school, and took a part also in similar services at the Boys' Refuge in Great Queen Street. These services he continued until his health failed him, and obliged him to retire altogether from the work. The pages of the RAGGED SCHOOL RECORD seem a fitting means of addressing a few lines to its readers in memoriam of these services, not the less acceptable, it is hoped, in coming from one who had the good fortune not only to have been associated for very many years in his work, but in social life, and latterly day by day in attendance upon him throughout his painful and protracted illness.

His genial nature and kindly disposition in health were only equalled by his resigned submission to his Heavenly Father's will in sickness. He felt that "they also serve who wait." Truly he lived the life of one who "being dead yet speaketh."

He died on May 9th, and was buried in Highgate Cemetery. Previous to the interment an impressive service was conducted in Christ Church, Woburn Square, by the Revds. J. S. Glendenning Nash, the vicar, and Neville Sherbrooke, of Portman Chapel, of which place Mr. Brooker was a member at the time of his death. The service at the grave was conducted by the same clergymen. Dr. Cross and Messrs. H. R. Williams, S. E. Haward, and J. G. Gent attended as members of the Committee and friends of the deceased, and Messrs. Kirk and Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, represented the Society.

The following additional particulars were supplied by Mr. Handford, who occupied for many years a confidential post, and now succeeds as a partner in the firm of the deceased :—

Thomas Brooker was born in 1812, in the parish of Christ Church, Blackfriars, Surrey. In his boyhood he attended Surrey Chapel, and was in the choir of the chapel under the ministration of the celebrated Rev. Rowland Hill, in whose life and work he ever evinced a lively interest.

From his mother, whom he survived only two years, she having lived to the great age of ninety-seven, he seems to have inherited his chief characteristics, which tended materially to his future success.

He was distinguished for perseverance, punctuality, probity, philanthropy, and sound common-sense. He was a fine illustration of the man who is not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Many an eye that saw him blessed him. He was always ready to assist in cases which appeared genuine in their claim for help, but little was known by others of the amount of the help he thus gave.

Many are the tangled knots in social and business life which he was enabled to untie; and in this direction his aid was constantly in demand and generously given.

His engagements were always scrupulously observed, and his word was ever his bond.

When or by what agencies he became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is not upon record, but it must have been in early manhood, as in 1839 he contemplated applying for membership in the church John Street Chapel, Bedford Row, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. J. Harrington Evans.

He afterwards united with the Scotch Church, Crown Court, when the late Rev. Dr. Cumming was in the zenith of his popularity, and this led to his taking an interest in Ragged School work at Brewers' Court, Great Wild Street, Drury Lane, in which work he continued with more or less success during nearly thirty years. During the greater part of this period he devoted his energies and freely of his means to this work as treasurer, Sunday afternoon superintendent of the Sunday Schools, and alternately with Dr. Cross taking the Sunday Evening Ragged Church Service.

Here he found himself surrounded by a large number of needy folk, and he was not the man to say, "Depart, and be ye warmed and filled," without giving substantial help, and in connection with the "Needy Nook" Fund—the result of Dr. Cummings's appeal in the *Times* newspaper—or out of his own private resources he helped to lessen the rigour of several successive winters, and to comfort many a suffering one.

Outside strictly Ragged School work he was not idle. In conjunction with John Harris, Esq., he assisted in giving numerous evening entertainments of a superior class, with dissolving views, making long journeys and late hours, with the usual discomforts of winter nights in all kinds of weather, without charge. He was also for many years treasurer of the Infirmary for Consumption, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, and a member of the committee of the North-west District of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as well as member of Committee of the Ragged School Union. To him these varied engagements meant work, as he disliked to hold any office without taking his share of duty and responsibility.

MISS BROOM.

Miss Mary Broom, of Gravesend, was a Christian worker with whom the late General Gordon co-operated in works for the poor of that place, and who was spoken of by the General as "one of the best women in England." With little that was adventitious to aid her, and with daily duties to attend to, she spent hours every day in the lower parts of the town; gave her life for the uplifting and salvation of a river-side population; and contracted an infectious disease during her voluntary visitations, of which she died in April.

For fifteen years I have known of her unwearied, unremitting, self-sacrificing efforts on behalf of the suffering and the abandoned. She hired a house among the poor whom she sought to elevate, and made it cheerful for Christian services and innocent pleasures.

She conducted Bible-readings and musical bands almost every night to win the tempted out of evil. Lost girls in their despair repaired to her home, and she would journey frequently to London to place these penitent ones in a refuge. I have seen her entering the railway carriage with two or three of them, and she would spend the last shilling she had on their recovery. She would, many a night, go to a tavern and fetch out a half-drunken man, and then walk by his side to take him to his home. When youths in her classes were refractory, she would overcome them by her friendly patience.

Neither the weariness of daily engagements nor the heavy pressure of sorrows arrested her absorbing solicitude for the neglected and the desolate. She freely gave herself to them to be their guide out of sin to Christ; and in, at last, giving her very life for them she has, we may believe, received from the Redeemer the high commendation—"She hath done what she could."

This sweet memorial, by the Rev. W. Guest, is copied from the *Christian*. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, is happy to be able to say ditto to every word of this well-marked testimony. Miss Broom's work was affiliated to the Ragged School Union

MR. THOMAS DALTON.

Another well-known worker at the East-end has passed away. Thirty years ago Limehouse was a rough place and the resort of waterside thieves and bullies. No effort was being made to reach the poorer or gutter children who lived by the waterside at Limehouse until a few Christians started a school, first of all in a room attached to the National Schoolroom. But a school of this sort is not a desirable tenant, and so, after various shifts, a cowshed was taken and converted into a schoolroom, and named after the street in which it was situated,

Ropemakers' Fields. It was here that Thomas Dalton began his career as a Ragged School teacher, and for twenty-seven years he stuck to the work. Impulsive, generous, and genial, he was soon popular.

It was through the school that his religious convictions were deepened, and this resulted in his joining the Wesleyan body. For some years past his health had been failing him, and this winter the final crisis came.

He passed away in April in the 68th year of his age. The best memorial of this unselfish and devoted friend of poor lads will be the continuance and extension of the work in which he laboured so long.

REV. PAXTON HOOD.

The death of one so eminent for service is a great loss to the Church of Christ and the world at large. He was ever ready to serve the cause of Ragged Schools either on the platform or in the lecture-room. His premonitory attack, which occurred at Dewsbury, prevented his serving the Society at the Duke of Westminster's, which was a great grief to him. Some of his children's songs—"God who has made the Daisies," "The dear old Bible," and "Love shall be the Conqueror"—have endeared him to the hearts of thousands. His "Bye-Path Meadow," "Blind Amos," and "Self-Formation" are excellent gift-books. Many of his works, for he was a most prolific author, such as "Christmas Evans and the Welsh Preacher," "Cromwell," "Peerage of Poverty," and "Lamps, Pitchers, and Trumpets," are suitable for the teacher's library.

EARL CAIRNS.

In the removal of this Christian nobleman and philanthropist the cause of poor children and of Ragged Schools has lost a consistent friend and supporter. As Sir Hugh Cairns he appeared in our subscription list thirty years ago, and as years went on, with increasing legal and political responsibilities, his sympathies with the work never flagged.

MR. ALDERMAN NOTTAGE.

The late Mr. Alderman Nottage evinced his interest in the work not infrequently, and had several engagements with the schools when his lamented death took place. These removals loudly call on those remaining to "work while it is called to-day."

Notices of Books.

CASSELL AND Co., Limited, Ludgate Hill.

Cassell's Popular Educator. New and revised edition. Part I. Price 6d. It was a bright thought of the publishers to advertise this work by exhibiting two sets of heads showing the elevating influence of knowledge and wisdom and the degrading influence of ignorance and vice on the form of the head and the fashion of the countenance. They and the world of letters generally have done much to effect the nobler transformation, and this "Popular Educator" is a grand aid to so glorious a result. This re-issue is not merely a reprint but a new edition. Its pages will be enriched with the fresh truth gathered in from the wide field of knowledge. The first part begins lessons in the French, German, Latin, and English languages; also in geography, geometry, botany, animal physiology, and music; and in bookkeeping, arithmetic, drawing, history, penmanship, and shorthand. The great object of this work is to enable the people to educate themselves. It is ably written, well illustrated, printed in clear type and on good

paper. The work has had an amazing sale. It has received the highest commendation from the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, now Lord Sherbrooke, and of Thomas Burt, Esq., M.P., once a miner, who says he owes much to the "Popular Educator."

COLLINS, SONS, AND CO., Limited, London and Glasgow.

The Improved Illustrated Reader. Fifth Book.

The selections of prose and poetry are varied and interesting, and taken from a wide range of authors of eminence, and eminently adapted to open the eyes of the young to the charms of literature. The spelling, parsing, and composition exercises are excellent. This series deserves a place in school and home.

HODDER AND STOUGHTON, Paternoster Row.

The Story of William Allen, the Spitalfields Genius, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.R.H.S., Hon. Member of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg, Lecturer at Guy's Hospital and the Royal Institution. Price 3s. 6d.

This is a most inspiring book. William Allen was a spotless hero, whose triumphs were won on bloodless fields, and whose bright example may be copied with infinite advantage. Within the compass of 200 pages, not one of which is dull, are comprised the details of a busy and eventful life, which gave a bright and blessed impulse to the generation in which he lived, and lifted humanity into a higher plane.

PASSMORE AND ALABASTER, Paternoster Buildings.

Morning by Morning; or, Daily Readings for the Family or the Closet. By C. H. Spurgeon.

This is a new edition of a good book, which is not intended to supersede the reading of the Word of God, but, by assisting the private meditation of believers, to make its pages luminous and attractive. Simplicity, freshness, force, and fervour are the characteristics of these readings.

My Sermon Notes. (A continuation.) From Ecclesiastes to Malachi. By C. H. Spurgeon.

The thoughts expressed are luminous openings of the Word. The writer's soul is full of faith, and his heart all aglow with love to Christ. Hence his mind kindles, and a throng of felicitous ideas start into life, and with them is born the fitting word that makes them visible. What teacher would be without these?

ISBISTER AND CO.

The Sunday Magazine.

This is so well conducted a serial, the articles are so varied and so fitted for its special purpose, and withal so well illustrated, as to carry with it its own recommendation. We notice it to call attention to an article on Ogle Mews Ragged School, by Holden Pike, in the July number.

Notices of Meetings.

FOX COURT RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION.

The annual parents' tea was given some short time since in the Benchers' Hall, Gray's Inn, when between four and five hundred parents of the children cared for by the mission were entertained at a substantial repast.

In the unavoidable absence, through indisposition, of the Earl of Shaftesbury, president of the institution, the chair was occupied by Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., who was accompanied by Miss Carden; and amongst the friends present were Sir W. Wheelhouse, Q.C., Mr. H. W. Elcum (treasurer), Mr. R. M. Beachcroft, Mr. C. E. Fry, Mr. R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union), the Rev. S. Phillips (chaplain of Gray's Inn), and other gentlemen.

The hon. secretary (Mr. T. Fagg) made a statement, and expressed regret at the absence, through illness, of their noble President.

Addresses having been delivered by the Rev. S. Phillips, Sir W. Wheelhouse, Q.C., and others, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., said he was very glad to meet so many of the parents, and especially the mothers, and observed that he had never met with a more "respectable congregation" at any of the meetings in connection with this institution. He referred to the dilapidated, and even dangerous, character of the old mission-house, and rejoiced that they were in possession of a building in all respects suited to the requirements of the mission. He advised the poor parents to make use of the coffee tavern rather than the public-house, and pointed out that non-intoxicating liquors were not only cheaper and more beneficial, but that they brought no such wretchedness into the homes of the poor as resulted from strong drink. The addresses were interspersed with vocal and instrumental music.

GRAVESEND RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of this institution was held in the large room of the Town Hall some short time since. T. F. Wood, Esq., Mayor of Gravesend, presided. The platform was tastefully decorated with the Chinese flags presented to the school by the late General Gordon.

Major McKown, the hon. secretary, then read the report, in which, after acknowledging the goodness of God during the past year, the late General Gordon is

thus referred to: "Your committee feel impelled to pause at the outset of their report that they may offer their tribute of love and esteem, and place, if only in imagination, their wreath of choicest flowers over the form of their old friend and fellow-labourer, General Gordon. Of him it is no figure of speech to say 'a nation mourns him;' but of all who desire to express their sense of admiration for the man and their intense sorrow at his removal, the friends of the Gravesend Ragged School may well claim to occupy a prominent position." The Sunday School has a large attendance of scholars. The Lending Library is much used. A very satisfactory letter was read from an old Ragged School boy (John Hornings), who wrote to acknowledge the good he had received in the Gravesend Ragged School, and who also said he had cause to bless God for having kept him from drink, tobacco, and bad companions, and who had given him "a nice Christian young girl for an intended." Scholars' prizes, presented by the Ragged School Union for keeping situations with good character upwards of twelve months, were obtained by six young people who attended at Exeter Hall in May last, when the prizes were distributed by the Earl of Shaftesbury. A Sewing Class for girls, with an attendance of 41 pupils, and a Mothers' Meeting, numbering 53 members, is held every Monday evening. One of the most important institutions connected with this institution is the Penny Savings Bank. During the past year no less than 6,140 deposits were made. Deposits to 31st December, 1884, £462 4s. 7d. The Annual Parents' Meeting was attended by 190 persons, who were regaled with food for the inner and outer man. The Annual Treat was given to 195 boys and girls and to 181 infants. The Christmas Dinner to the poor took place as usual, when 814 tickets were issued. After this large number had partaken, 278 tramps and others were gathered in from the highways and hedges and supplied with a substantial dinner from the remains. £15 5s. 2d. was expended in the purchase of coal for distribution among the poor. The Cooking Class, established last year, has been continued with success. The expenditure for the year amounted to £137 3s. 2d.

The meeting was ably addressed by Mr. J. H. Buckingham, of the Ragged School Union Committee, London, and several other gentlemen.

SERMON LANE MISSION.—ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the subscribers and friends of this mission was held in May at Myddelton Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Henry Spicer. Mr. Daniel Cooksey (secretary) presented his report, which stated that the Sunday morning services had averaged 150 in attendance. On Sunday evening the hall was generally full, whilst at the after prayer-meeting about 100 remained. The Tuesday evening services had been very satisfactory; the Sunday afternoon Adult Bible-class membership was 91; the open-air services had been held in suitable weather, whilst a series of special services were held in June by the Evangelisation Society, by which the Temperance Society

greatly benefited. Harvest thanksgiving services were held. In the Sunday School there was not wanting evidence that God's blessing was working amongst them, two senior scholars having taken classes, and the afternoon school, under the superintendence of Mr. Edwards, being more numerously attended than present accommodation warranted. Home visitation had been carried on by Mr. Fuller for sixteen years. Of tract distributors there were thirty-three, and the Maternity Society had done beneficent work. The Monday afternoon Sewing Class had been attended on the average by about sixty or seventy persons, The Mothers' Meeting had over 100 names on the books. Mention was also made of the Dorcas Society and the Mission Choir. The Sunday School Singing Class was well conducted; and good work was shown in the Gospel Total Abstinence Society by the fact that 125 pledges had been taken during the year. The Band of Hope numbers over 100 members. The Midnight Meeting movement had been carried on with success. Thrift had been encouraged amongst the little ones, as shown by £288 3s. 9d. being placed in the Penny Bank during the year; and a Chess Club and Library, which Mr. George, the manager, sought to develop into a Boys' Institute. Dinners had been given to the boardmen for the streets during Cattle Show week; whilst throughout the neighbourhood there had been bi-weekly distributions of soup to the poor at the rate of 1d. per quart, but where necessity was shown it was given gratuitously. The Sunday morning free breakfasts and the Christmas dinners had been continued. Concerts had been given. Amongst other special efforts, the victims of drink, to the number of about 400, were gathered in to a tea, and an earnest address given by one who had been rescued. Mr. W. D. Lewis (treasurer) said that the expenditure was £424 8s. 9d., and the balance in hand £16 12s. 1d. Admirable speeches were delivered by Henry Spicer, Esq. (London School Board), Mr. J. Kirk (Ragged School Union), and others.

GEORGE YARD RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The annual meeting in connection with these schools and the numerous institutions connected with them was held on Monday evening, April 27th, at George Yard. Dr. Cory, of Buckhurst Hill, presided, in the absence of Lord Shaftesbury. The following letter was read from Lord Shaftesbury:—

"24, Grosvenor Square,
"April 27, 1885.

"Dear George Holland,—It grieves me beyond expression I can't be with you this evening. I never was so unwell as the whole of yesterday, and to-day I can hardly move. Pray say how truly sorrowful I am, as I have never missed the meeting before, but it is God's will, and I can't help it.

"I am, yours truly,
"SHAFTESBURY."

From the annual report read by Mr. Holland, which bristles with facts and details of manifold operations, limited space will allow but a very scant recital. Her Majesty's inspector has reported favourably of the Day School. There were Toy Classes for neglected little ones, Clothing Clubs for children, a Band

of Hope, an Infants' Day Nursery, Rations of food to hungry children, a Saturday afternoon Bible Class, a Sewing Class for poor women, a Children's Service, and a Sewing Class for little girls, numbering 240, conducted by philanthropic lady visitors. The common lodging-house services have been continued. The Sewing Class, attended by 100 poor women, meets twice a week during the winter months. Lady Ashburton erected in her own park at Addiscombe a double cottage for the reception of children whose health is failing. Another cottage has been erected for adults. To these cottages more than 600 men, women, and children have been admitted and have received fourteen days' change of air, scene, and food. There is also a mission for inebriate women; at the present time about seventy such are under visitation. The Open-air Services are attended on an average by 800 persons, the lodging-house meetings by 300, the Sunday Schools by about 600 children, the Free Day Ragged Schools by 250. Recreation for elder girls, young women, and adults is provided for 350 weekly. During the year the George Yard was open for children 900 times; the Infant Nursery, 310 times; for young people, 450 times; for adults, 650 times. Many degraded and perverted beings have been induced to reform by means of the loving work carried on in George Yard.

The meeting was addressed by the Rev. J. A. Robinson, Rector of Whitechapel, and the Rev. Mr. Reakes, and by Messrs. J. K. Studd, R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union), J. E. Matheson, Roland Smith, and by Dr. Cory.

HOLLOWAY RAGGED SCHOOL, ETC.

The annual meeting of the Holloway Ragged Schools and Infant Nursery was recently held in the hall of the mission, Hornsey Road. The Rev. F. A. C. Lillingston, of St. Barnabas, was in the chair.

Mr. Haig Miller said that he had paid a special visit to the Crèche to see for himself what work was being done, and he had been greatly pleased with the result. The early impressionable years of child life were evidently being passed under most favourable conditions for the health and happiness of the children.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Benjamin Clark, of the Sunday School Union, and others.

A Girls' and Boys' Club are held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings respectively.

THE "GOOD SHEPHERD" RAGGED SCHOOLS AND MISSION.

A meeting of an interesting character took place at the above schools, in Wagner Street, near the Old Kent Road Station, on the occasion of the presentation of a banner to the institution on the 9th May. There were present the Rev. R. O. Thorpe, M.A., vicar of Christ Church; R. J. Curtis, Esq., representing the Ragged School Union; J. C. Halse, Esq., treasurer of the institution; and Mr. Blayney, secretary and superintendent, and other friends. A substantial tea was provided by F. S. Phillips, Esq.

The vicar, in presenting the banner to the committee, on behalf of the subscribers (Messrs. H. Morrell and Co. and employés), made some happy remarks upon the banners mentioned in Scripture, and especially directed

the attention of the audience to "His banner over me was love."

Mr. R. J. Curtis received the banner on behalf of the committee.

OGLE MEWS RAGGED SCHOOLS.

On Friday, May 22nd, the Lord Mayor, M.P., who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, presided at the forty-first annual meeting of the supporters of the Ogle Mews Ragged Schools, Fitzroy Square. There were also present Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead and Mrs. Whitehead, Mr. Sheriff G. Faudel Phillips and Mrs. Phillips, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden (president of the school), the Rev. T. Turner, M.A., the Rev. W. R. Mowll, M.A., and Mr. W. C. Miles, M.A.

The Rev. T. Turner, M.A., having offered up prayer, the report, which was read by Mr. F. Pitts, stated that the committee felt that a large measure of success had attended the efforts made by the large staff of voluntary workers. The Infants' Nursery had greatly increased in usefulness in the past year. The work in the Sunday Schools, the Week-day School, and all other branches of work, had been well sustained. The donations and subscriptions amounted to £341 14s. 9d., the expenditure to £340 4s. 9d., leaving a balance in hand of £1 0s. 10d.

The Lord Mayor, M.P., in addressing the meeting, regretted to find that the subscriptions had, during the past year, fallen off. This institution wanted all the money it could get, and he hoped that the liberality of those present would remedy this decrease. He had to express his sense of the great value which these schools conferred upon the inhabitants of the district where they were situated. It had been his privilege to visit institutions of this kind, and if they looked at the children they must see what a great blessing it was for them to be receiving a Christian education such as they got in these schools. The children were taken from very poor homes, and sometimes from something far worse, and brought to these schools, receiving religious instruction. The infants' room, too, was a spectacle which he was sure afforded much comfort and convenience for women, because if it were not for that department women could not go out and earn a few shillings when the husband was unable. Sometimes he went to districts where they were situated too far off to be assisted. If they went to the East-end of London they would be struck with the fact that there was a million and a half of people east of London Bridge who were very poor, and there was no one able to assist them except a few hard-working doctors and ministers. But in this district that was not so, because there were some of the schools' supporters resident in the neighbourhood, notably his friend Sir Robert Carden. At the same time, there was great poverty in the vicinity of the institution, and much need for it. It would be a great shame if an institution such as this were allowed to go back. He wished them God speed in their work.

The Rev. W. R. Mowll moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead.

The next resolution was proposed by Mr. Sheriff G. Faudel Phillips,

and seconded by the Rev. P. C. Bevan.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs.

HATFIELD STREET RAGGED SCHOOLS AND MISSION, GOLDEN LANE.

The annual public meeting of the above institution, which was established in 1827, was held recently, C. Ernest Tritton, Esq., presiding.

The hon. secretary (Mr. G. A. Robottom) read the report for the past year's work, which stated that all the various agencies employed had been kept in full operation. These comprised Sunday Afternoon and Evening Schools, the average attendance in all being 380, Open-air Services, Elder Girls' Class, Library, Winter Treats, "Day in the Country," Welsh Meetings, Services on Wednesday and Sunday evenings, Sewing Class, Drum and Fife Band, Junior Band of Hope, Senior Temperance Choir, Mothers' Meetings, Coal Club, Penny Bank, Children's Dinners, Children's Services, Christian Band, Temperance Entertainments, Cricket Club, Old People's Excursion, Distribution of Grocery at Christmas, &c.

The treasurer (Mr. J. Beament) said £159 had been received; the expenses had been £153, leaving a balance in hand at the end of the year of £6.

The Chairman, in the course of a practical address, said it seemed to him as if he had dropped into a hive of very busy workers. He was very glad to find that the work of the mission had been carried on with so much success. A grand thing in connection with it was that the officers and workers *gave* their time to the good work. He said that he had just come from what must soon be the deathbed of his youngest sister. The doctor that day had pronounced her case hopeless, and she told him to tell them at this meeting that the poor dying girl was lying in perfect peace, because she was fully trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Addresses were also delivered by the Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A., the Rev. Austin Davey, the Rev. Thomas Perry, Mr. W. E. Shipton, and Mr. J. Menzies (superintendent of Stephen-the-Yeoman Ragged School, Bermondsey).

NELSON STREET, CAMBERWELL.

An interesting Industrial Exhibition was held in the schoolroom on Tuesday evening, June 2nd. The display of needlework and amateur carpentering for quantity and quality was very gratifying. Some drawings of machinery and articles of antiquarian interest, which had been kindly lent, contributed to the interest of the show. In an adjoining class-room an Art Exhibition took place, which required more wit than eyesight to see the pictures, or to discern the objects, which, like castles in the air, received their local habitation and their name from the play of a very lively imagination. This art gallery owed its creation to a well-known Ragged School worker, J. E. Edmunds, Esq.

At the close of the evening prizes were distributed to the successful exhibitors by T. E. Crabb, Esq., whose connection with the place dates some forty years back.

Addresses were given by Messrs. Andrews, Parker, and Lucey.

HAMILTON PLACE AND PEACE COTTAGE SCHOOLS.

In connection with these schools recently an entertainment was given and a fancy bazaar held at the school-rooms in King's Cross Road, the object being to raise funds to assist in clearing off a debt which existed. The schools have been established for twenty-one years. Over 300 scholars attend on Sundays.

CASTLE LANE, WESTMINSTER, YOUTHS' INSTITUTE.

An interesting meeting took place on May 28th, when the Rev. W. W. Sinclair, vicar, presided. Prizes were given for proficiency in gymnastics, for good membership, and for work done in the classes. The number enrolled as members for the session was 183. The Rev. Henry Simon, president, gave the good-membership prize. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, took part in the proceedings.

THE MACGREGOR HOME,

situated in Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, for lads who have been in the Shoeblack Brigade, was opened on May 22nd. For a very moderate payment the boys are provided with good lodging, Library, Reading Room, Gymnasium, and Christian supervision. Some few rules are enforced, but influence is mostly relied on as a remedial agent.

Accommodation is provided for thirty-five youths. A supper of roast beef, &c., was provided. The boys were welcomed by some of their warmest friends, viz., the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, Martin Ware, Esq., Quentin Hogg, Esq., the Hon. Thomas Pelham, J. H. Fordham, Esq., Messrs. Wallen, Kirk, and Curtis.

FIELD LANE REFUGES AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

In the regretted absence of Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Mount-Temple presided recently at the annual meeting of this institution, at Holborn Town Hall. The secretary, Mr. Peregrine Platt, read the report. The Male and Female Refuges had been resorted to by large numbers of the homeless. The number admitted had been 620, and the number of nights' lodgings given, 15,787. The Industrial Schools had clothed, fed, educated, and industrially trained 106 boys and 81 girls. The Free Night School, the Band of Hope, the Servants' Training Home, and the Ragged School had all been in full exercise during the year. There was still a debt of £1,000. The balance-sheet showed that the ordinary expenses required an additional income of some £400 per annum.

The Rev. J. Guinness Rogers, Clapham, said Board Schools could never do the work that such schools as these did, for they needed a Christian agency to impart the true spirit of the Bible.

The chairman expressed his regret at the absence of Lord Shaftesbury, whose interest in the Field Lane Schools commenced forty years ago, and was still warm as ever. It was interesting to know that Lord Shaftesbury's first step in that course of philanthropy among the poor which had made him so prominent as a Christian hero, began in the Field Lane Schools.

The Rev. J. Dixon, J. R. Starey, Esq., and Messrs. Kirk and Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, took some part in the meeting.

THE ONE TUN RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The twenty-eighth annual gathering was held on Tuesday, 23rd June. Lord Shaftesbury presided. Sir Robert Carden was not able to be present. The meeting was on this occasion as full of interest as ever. A great many young servants were present, who came up to receive prizes at the hand of Lord Shaftesbury, all of whom, as well as the other children, were clothed in garments given by Mrs. Barker Harrison. Lord Shaftesbury distributed money prizes to twenty-five young servants, fifty-one to children for flowers, and two prizes for boot-mending.

The recitation of portions of Scripture, and the marching and singing of the children with bannerets, who had enjoyed three weeks in the country, created quite a sensation.

A letter written by one of the girls was read, expressing the pleasure of the school at his lordship's presence. This was followed by a present to the Earl and to Lady Edith Ashley, and by another letter and presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Woodhouse.

The Rev. Sinclair Paterson took the chair when vacated. Mr. Curtis (of the Ragged School Union) declared that the best speeches of the evening were the singing and Scripture repetition of the children, the prizes and work, and the happy faces which they saw around them, for it was a practical testimony of what was done at the One Tun Ragged School—a work which should not be allowed to languish for the want of that generous support which could alone supply the deficiency in its funds, which he was sorry to hear amounted to £100, and which he hoped that the wealthy and prosperous people who lived in Westminster would readily supply.

THE FLOWER GIRLS' MISSION.

The nineteenth anniversary meeting of this institution (located at 11 and 12, Clerkenwell Close, Clerkenwell) was held on June 24th in the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The report describes extensive and progressive operations during the year on behalf of flower girls, including free breakfasts, market and theatre visiting by missionary and Bible women, dinners for poor children, and lodgings for the homeless. The Flower Girls' Brigade, consisting of young girls taken from the streets and afterwards employed in making artificial flowers, appears to be in prosperous working. Since it was established in 1879 it has taken 300 little flower-sellers from the streets, and there are now thirty-six girls under training for flower-making and domestic service. The income of the last year from all sources amounted to £2,933, of which £1,982 was raised by the industry and offerings of those immediately associated with and benefited by the organisation. The sales of artificial flowers made by the girls during the year realised £1,539. In the last winter 13,070 meat dinners were provided for poor children at a cost of one halfpenny each.

Excursion Fund (*continued*).

	£	s.	d.
Filcher, Miss	2	2	0
Fitman, Hy., Esq.	0	10	0
Flint, G. T., Esq.	0	5	0
Flatt, Owen, Esq.	0	5	0
Forter, Robt., Esq.	2	0	0
Foulter, B. C., Esq.	5	5	0
Fowell, Mrs.	0	10	0
Fratt, Miss Isabella	1	0	0
Frisuix, Miss	0	7	0
Prince, Mrs.	2	0	0
Pritchett, Chas. P., Esq.	0	5	0
Quarterman, Rev. T. K.	0	2	6
Quincey, Miss	1	0	0
Ramsay, Mrs.	0	2	6
Ranking, Miss	0	1	0
Ransted, O., Esq.	0	5	0
Ray, Miss	0	5	0
Ray, Rev. Hy.	2	2	0
Rew, Miss	0	10	0
Rewlence, Mrs.	0	5	0
Richardson, W., Esq.	0	10	0
Riddell, Mrs.	0	5	0
Riddell, Miss	7	16	0
Rigden, Thos., Esq.	1	0	0
Ringrove, R. B., Esq.	0	10	0
Ripley, Miss M.	0	2	6
Robertson, Chas., Esq.	0	5	0
Robertson, W. B., Esq.	0	4	0
Robinson, Geo., Esq.	1	0	0
Robinson, Miss Jane	0	5	0
Rosling, Alfred, Esq.	1	0	0
Rouse, Mrs.	1	1	0
Routh, Dr.	0	5	0
Rutter, Mrs.	2	2	0
Scott, Lady F.	2	0	0
Stafford, Lady	2	0	0
Sutherland, Duchess of	1	0	0
Sadler, Miss	0	15	0
Salter, Miss E.	0	2	0
Santley, Chas., Esq.	20	0	0
St. John, Captn. C. B.	10	0	0
Saunders, Miss S.	0	10	0
Seager, Miss	5	0	0
Schofield, Mrs. A. G.	0	2	6
Scorer, Alfred, Esq.	5	5	0
Scott, Rev. M. B.	1	0	0
Scott, S., Esq.	10	0	0
Scott, Thos., Esq.	1	1	0
Shann, Chas., Esq.	5	5	0
Shaw, Miss	0	2	6
Shawe, Miss E.	0	5	0
Shepheard, C., Esq.	1	0	0
Sherlock, C. C., Esq.	2	0	0
Simpkinson, Master F. V.	0	7	6
Smith, Genl. J. W. S.	1	1	0
Smith, Mrs. E.	0	2	0
Smith, R. M., Esq.	2	2	0
Smith, Samuel, Esq., M.P.	5	0	0
Smithers, H. W., Esq.	5	0	0
Sneyd, Miss	0	5	0
Southall, Mrs.	0	5	0
Spackman, Miss	0	2	6
Spatford, W. F., Esq.	0	5	0
Spottiswoode, The Misses	1	0	0
Stafford, Mrs.	1	0	0
Staples, Mrs.	0	2	0
Stewart, Mrs. R.	1	5	0
Stoneage, Miss	0	5	0
Stuart, Miss	0	10	0
Symons, W., Esq.	2	2	0
S. C.	0	5	0
S. S.	2	0	0
Tate, Miss H. M.	0	10	0
Thompson, Miss	0	5	0
Thomson, John, Esq.	0	2	6
Tomkins, Miss	0	2	0
Tonge, Mrs.	0	2	6
Tryon, Fredk., Esq.	0	10	0
Tweedy, Miss Caroline	0	5	0
Tyndall, W. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Two Friends, Worthing	0	2	6
Two Sisters	1	0	0
Verulam, Lord	1	0	0
Valiant, F., Esq.	0	10	0
Vivian, Mrs.	0	5	0
Westminster, Duke of, K.G.	2	0	0
Wade, Major and Mrs.	0	2	0
Walford, Mrs.	0	10	0
Walker, Miss	0	10	0
Waller, Sir Thomas	2	0	0
Wallis, Robt. Bruce, Esq.	0	10	0
Walsh, Miss	0	10	0
Wark, Mrs.	2	2	0
Warren, Mrs.	0	5	0
Westell, Miss M.	0	10	0
Waterhouse, T. G., Esq.	1	1	0
Watson, Jas., Esq.	0	10	0
Waugh, Miss	2	0	0
Webb, Mrs.	0	1	0
Wedgwood, H., Esq.	1	0	0
West, Miss R.	0	5	0
Westrop, H. W., Esq.	0	5	0
Whale, W. E., Esq.	1	1	0
Whately, Miss E. J.	0	10	0
Wheler, Mrs. E.	0	10	0
White, Mrs.	0	5	0
Whitehead, Miss E.	0	9	10
Whytt, P. F., Esq.	0	10	0
Wildman, Mrs.	0	3	0
Williams, Miss	0	2	6
Wilson, Mrs. C. Carus	2	0	0
Wilson, Mrs. M.	1	0	0
Wingfield, W., Esq.	1	0	0
Woodward, Miss F.	0	3	0
Worsley, E., Esq.	0	3	6
Wright, Hy., Esq.	0	10	0
Wright, Mrs.	0	2	0
Wright, Miss A.	1	0	0
Wright, W., Esq.	0	10	0
Wyse, Mrs.	0	5	0
W. K. H.	2	0	0
Young, Walter, Esq., and Miss Dods	0	1	0
Zimmerman, Edward, Esq.	0	10	0
Shaftesbury Fund.			
Chamberlin, Miss	0	5	0
Collection at Grosvenor House	25	12	6
Linford, Rev. G. C.	1	0	0
Seymour, H. H., Esq.	5	5	0
Smith, Samuel, Esq., M.P.	25	0	0
Stohwasser, Miss	5	5	0
Westminster, His Grace the Duke of	00	0	0

Special Fund.

Dinners.

Waugh Miss	2	0	0
Dove Row.			
Williams, H. B., Esq.	5	0	0
Field Lane.			
Browne, Mrs. Clayton	5	0	0
George Yard.			
Potter, Mrs.	20	0	0
King Edward.			
Earle, Miss M. A.	0	5	0
Hill, Miss	1	1	0
Perkins, Mr. G. W.	0	1	0
Westell, Miss M.	0	10	0
St. Giles's.			
Carpmael, Alfred, Esq.	1	1	0
Carpmael, Ernest, Esq.	1	1	0
Carpmael, Mrs.	2	2	0
Carpmael, Miss	1	1	0
Shaftesbury Testimonial.			
Dowr. Lady Aberdeen	1	0	0
Training Ships			
Melville, Churchill, Esq.	1	0	0

Weary Workers.

Davies, Fredk., Esq.	1	0	0
Gibbins, Miss M.	10	0	0
Lush, Dr. Wm.			
Vawdry	0	10	0
Paget, Miss	0	12	6
Potter, Mrs.	5	0	0
Sherson, The Misses	1	10	0

Worn-Out Teachers.

Gibbins, Miss M.	10	0	0

Legacies.

Hall, W. J., deceased	21	13	0
Kilpin, C. J., Esq. deceased	100	0	0
Miss Rooke, deceased.	9	0	0

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